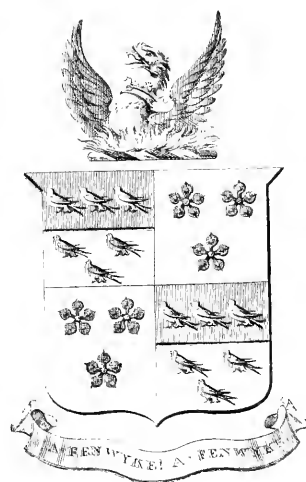
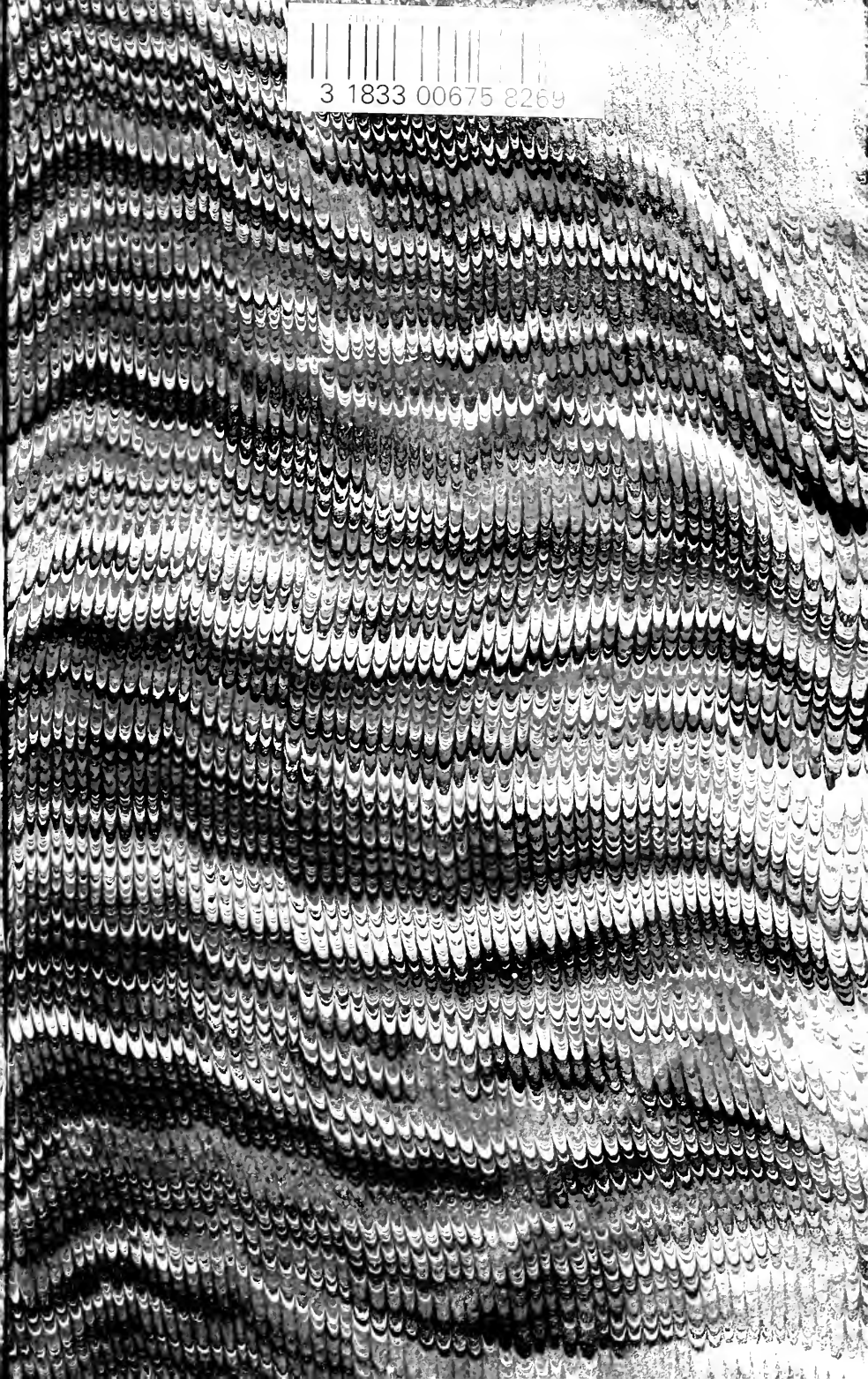


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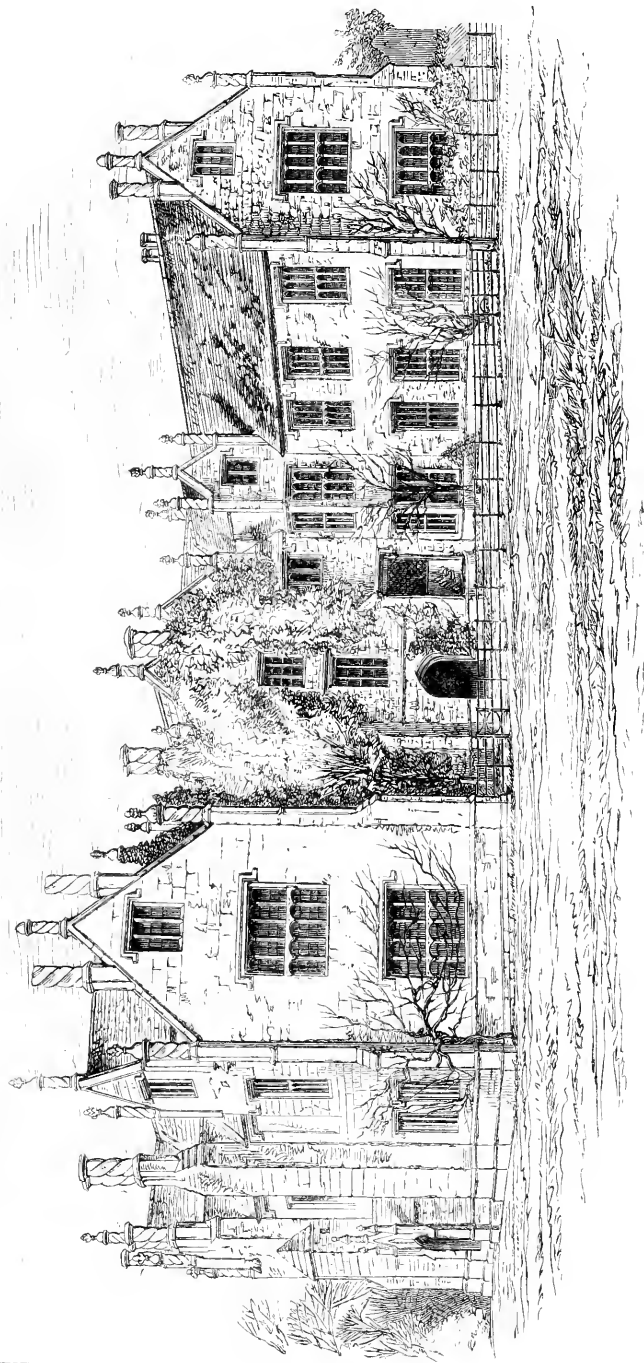


SOMERSETSHIRE
Archaeological and Natural History Society.

PROCEEDINGS DURING THE YEARS 1861-2.

VOL. XI.





BARRINGTON COURT SOMERSET

Somersetshire Archæological
and
Natural History Society.

Proceedings
DURING THE YEARS 1861-2.

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TAUNTON :
FREDERICK MAY, HIGH-STREET.
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The Members of the Society are indebted to the Rev. Prebendary Meade, of Castle Carey, for the Ground-plan of the old Castle, &c., at Castle Carey; the arms of Perceval Luvell, Lord St. Maur, &c.; and the pedigree of the Perceval-Luvells; which are kindly presented in illustration of the paper on Castle Carey in Vol. VIII., p. 82, of the *Proceedings* of this Society, 1856-7.

They are also indebted to the Rev. W. J. Tanner for the Drawing of the Capitals in Burlescombe Church, and to the Rev. Thos. Hugo for those of the "Inscribed Plate in Memory of Maud de Merriete," and of the "Nonaynes de Cannyntune."

The beautiful illustrations of Mr. Parker's paper on the Bishop's Palace, Wells, are introduced by virtue of the arrangement made at the Annual Meeting held at Wellington, and the expence of producing them defrayed by the special subscriptions received for that object. A list of subscribers is given in p. 58. Additional subscriptions are solicited towards this object.

The Publication Committee desire also to acknowledge their obligations to the Council of the Geological Society for the use of the wood-engravings to illustrate Mr. Dawkins' paper on Wookey Hole Hyena Den.



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vision of an able and accomplished editor, and expressed a hope that the County of Somerset might, ere long, be equally fortunate in connexion with our own County History.

The Rev. F. WARRE then read the

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE:

“Your Committee, on this, the 13th, occasion of presenting their Annual Report, have great pleasure in being able to congratulate the Society on its present position and future prospects.

“That it may not appear that the congratulation is without sufficient foundation it seems advisable to enter somewhat into detail as to those points of prosperity in which it is absolutely necessary that the Society may with truth be pronounced to be in a flourishing condition.

“The Treasurer’s Account will shew that when the arrears now due are collected our funds, though still much too small to enable us to do what we wish for the advancement of archæological and natural science, will be sufficient to meet our present liabilities, and to leave a small balance in hand.

“It will be seen also that a very large proportion of the income of the Society is necessarily expended in bringing out a volume of sufficient merit, both in form and matter, to afford all our members some return for their Subscriptions, while the surplus hardly covers the necessary expenses of the Museum and the Annual Meeting. The publication of the Volume of Proceedings for the present year has been unavoidably delayed, but it will be issued forthwith and the Committee believe that the Members will not fail to regard it as in every respect worthy of the Society.

“The Committee feel that the interest evinced by the presentation and deposit of many valuable articles in the Museum since the last Annual Meeting, is really a subject of congratulation to the Society, and they wish at the same time to call attention to the expediency of depositing, if not of presenting, to institutions such as our own, objects of antiquarian interest that may be discovered, the value of such things being too often forgotten and the things themselves and the circumstances connected with the discovery of them irretrievably lost if they are suffered to remain long in private collections, whereas, if placed in a public museum, these circumstances would be carefully recorded and the objects carefully preserved; while, by the system of depositing, the property continues to be vested in the original owners as much as if the curiosities remained in their own houses.

“The attention of the Committee having been directed to a Collection of Somersetshire Cave Bones, which were offered for sale, and reputed to have belonged to Mr. Beard, of Banwell, a Deputation was appointed to examine, and, if thought desirable, to purchase such as would be serviceable for the Museum of this Society. When, however, it was found that they did not form a part of that Collection, no further steps were taken. Should the Collection referred to ever be dispersed, there are many specimens which the Society ought not to allow to go out of the county. In fact, the Banwell Collection and the Williams’s Collection, purchased by the Society, are each the complement of the other.

“The Committee cannot but lament the loss of your late Curator, Mr. Parfitt, under whose able superintendence much was done to arrange and classify the Natural History department of the Museum. The offer of a more lucrative

situation has been the cause of his leaving a post in your Museum, the duties of which his knowledge of Natural History enabled him to fulfil with very great success.

“The number of Members remains nearly the same; the losses by death and removal being pretty well supplied by the accession of new Members. The Committee are anxious not to increase the amount of the annual subscription, and would, therefore, earnestly impress upon Members the importance of their interesting themselves to increase the number of Subscribers, thereby increasing the funds of the Society and enlarging the sphere of its operations.

“By the lamented death of the late Professor Quekett this Society has lost a most valuable and distinguished Member. By his great scientific discoveries and attainments Mr. Quekett had established a world-wide reputation, and his renown reflects much honour on his native town, Langport, and on the county of Somerset.

“Conversazione Meetings have been held in the Museum during the past winter, and have sustained the interest and promoted the objects of the Society; while the cost has been defrayed exclusively by those Members who have attended them.

“On the whole our prospects are satisfactory; but the work we have to do is one which requires considerable outlay, and the active co-operation of all our Members. If our funds can be increased, the effects of our labours will be more apparent. But we have not gone back in any point, and we trust that in many we have made as great an advance as, under the circumstances, we could reasonably expect.”

The following Financial Statement was read by the Rev. WM. ARTHUR JONES;

The Treasurers in account with the Somersetshire Archaeological and
Dr. Natural History Society. Cr.

1861.	£	s.	d.	1861.	£	s.	d.
To Balance of former account	2	2		By expended at Annual			
„ Subscriptions	169	12	0	Meeting at Clevedon, 1860	4	3	6
„ Arrears	16	0	0	„ Ditto ditto hotel bill	4	2	0
„ Entrances	4	10	0	„ Advertising	5	19	3
„ May, sale of vols.	7	5	0	„ Coals and gas	4	3	5
„ Donations	15	0		„ Petty disbursements	18	0	
				„ Stationery	4	6	
				„ Hare (glazier) 5s.,			
				Hartnell, (ditto) 10s. 2d.	15	2	
				„ Hartnell for glass case	1	16	8
				„ Hortop (carpenter)	5	3	
				„ Hartnell, repairing table	1	2	6
				„ Rent to Christmas, 1860	25	0	0
				„ Insurance to Christmas, 1861	1	2	6
				„ Subscription to Arundel			
				Society	1	3	0
				„ Ditto Papworth's Armorial			
				2 years	2	2	0
				„ Curator's salary to			
				July 23, 1861	35	12	10
				„ May, printing	11	7	0
				„ Clarke, ditto	11	0	
				„ Carriage	1	0	6
				„ Travelling expenses	10	0	
				„ Postages	4	13	1
				„ May, on account of printing			
				Vol. X. of <i>Proceedings</i>	40	0	0
				„ Ford, lithographic			
				illustrations	6	0	0
				„ E. C. Dyer, photographs	9	1	8
				„ Crump, drawing and			
				engraving	18	4	0
				„ A. A. Clarke, ditto	2	2	0
				„ Carriage of Vol. IX.			
				to Members	6	6	8
				„ Sundries	3	11	11
				„ Balance	6	2	9
£198 4 2				£198 4 2			

August 24, 1861.

Examined and found correct. Balance £6 2s. 9d.

WM. P. PINCHARD.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. WARREN, the Reports were received and adopted.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by F. H. DICKINSON, ESQ., Edward Ayshford Sanford, Esq., was unanimously elected President of the Society for the ensuing year.

The Officers of the Society were then severally re-elected, with the addition of R. N. Grenville, Esq., as Vice-President, and W. W. Munckton, Esq., as Local Secretary for

Langport. The following gentlemen were elected on the Committee:—The Rev. W. R. Clark, the Rev. W. T. Redfern, Messrs. Henry Alford, W. P. Pinchard, W. G. Rawlinson, C. F. Perkins.

It was then proposed by F. H. DICKINSON, Esq., seconded by W. A. SANFORD, Esq., and resolved :

“That this Society concurs with the Mayor and Corporation, and the Literary and Scientific Societies of the city of Bath, in their Memorial to the Council of the British Association for the advancement of Science, requesting that the meeting of the Association should be held in Bath, in the year 1863, or as soon as may be after ; and that the members of this Society pledge themselves to do all in their power to further the objects, and promote the interests of the Association.

“ That this resolution, signed by the President, be presented to the Council, by R. W. Falconer, Esq., Bath, one of the Vice-Presidents of this Society.”

MR. J. H. PARKER read a paper on the “ Bishop’s Palace, at Wells,” which is given in the present volume.

MR. W. W. MUNCKTON then read a paper on Langport.

After describing the physical features of the country around, and pointing to the position of Langport, where the River Parret passes through a chasm in the range of hills extending almost from Glastonbury to Castle Neroche, and carries down to the Sea the Waters drained from nearly 190,000 acres, he accounted for the frequent inundations to which the lower parts of the town of Langport is subject.

Its early history, like that of many other places, is lost in the mists of time ; but from the encampments

on Hurd's-hill, on the west bank of the Parret, and the one on which Langport proper is built, which are evidently Belgic British works, it must have been well known to the ancients; and no doubt the river and the pass (which now forms the street of Langport) were guarded with strict and jealous care. It must, from its situation, certainly have been a place of some considerable strength. There is a legend that a dragon lived upon Aller-hill, which fed upon and devoured all the crops in the neighbourhood, to the great injury of the inhabitants. This story prevails wherever the Danes made their incursions upon the Saxons, especially along the border country. The Saxons always called the Danes "dragons." It is recorded in the Saxon Chronicle that about the year 877, Somerton was plundered and laid waste by the Danes under their Captains, Inguar and Hubba. No doubt they came up the river, and after taking the fort of Langport, marched to Somerton. And it is reasonable to conclude that this story of the dragon alludes to this or a similar engagement. Mr. Jones has endeavoured to prove, in a paper published in our proceedings of 1853, that Langport was the Llongborth of Llywarch Hên's Elegy, which describes a fierce engagement between the Britons and Saxons, the British forces being commanded by Arthur, under the name of Emperor. The following is a translation of one of the verses :—

"At Llongborth was slain to Arthur
Emperor and conductor of the toil of war,
Valorous men, who with steel hewed down their foes."

He derives the name from the Celtic words Llong, a ship, and Porth, signifying a port or haven for ships.

This place was well known to the Romans. Traces of their road were found a short time since along the lower street of Langport, and the neighbourhood is full of

Roman remains, especially at Pitney. Midway between Langport and Curry Rivel is a place called Steanchester, from Stean, Saxon, and chester, castrum, camp; and below it, at Wiltown, many Roman coins, some of which I have deposited in the Museum, have been found.

It was a royal burg in the time of William the Conqueror, and formed part of the Manor of Somerton. It is thus surveyed in Domesday book :—

The King holds Somertone. King Edward held it There is a borough which is called Lamporth, in which reside 34 burgesses, rendering 15 shillings, and two fisheries render 10 shillings. It brings in per annum 79 pounds, ten shillings and sevenpence.

It was held by the Crown, according to Collinson, until the days of Richard I., who, having occasion for baronial aid, gave it with other estates in the neighbourhood to Sir Richard Revel, Knight. This Richard Revel procured a Charter for the town, and is said to have built a castle here.

Collinson appears to have been in error; for we find from an entry in the Hundred Rolls, that at an inquest holden at Langport on Wednesday, the festival of St. James, in the Second year of King Edward I., the jurors declared on their oath that the *Burg fo Langport* was given by King Henry II., the great grandfather of the reigning King, to a certain Richard Revel by the service of two Knights' fees as often as he should be summoned. He was at his own expense to attend the King in arms and on horseback for forty days. The value of the *Burg* at that time was 10 marks.

Revel or Rivel was a person of great note and Sheriff of Devon and Cornwall. For several successive years, Richard Revel is mentioned as one of the principal barons in this county in the time of Henry II. Sabina, his daughter and

heiress, carried it by her marriage with Henry de Ortiaco or L'Orti into his family, who belonged to the hundred and manor of Pitney. This Henry L'Orti was a great baron and landowner in the West of England. In 21st Henry III., he obtained license of the King to impark his woods at Curry Rivell, in order to be exempt from the regard of the neighbouring forest of Neroche. He died, 26th Henry III., 1241, and Sabina his wife survived him and had livery of the lands of her inheritance. The issue of this marriage was a son Henry, who became heir to the large estates of his father and mother. He accompanied Edward I. in his expedition into Wales, A.D., 1284, and on his return from thence he received a precept from the King for scutage, which was a levy of three marks, 40s, on every Knight's fee, to pay the expense of the war, from all his tenants by military service. In 22nd Edward I., 1294, he had a summons to attend the King at Portsmouth, equipped as a Knight should be, to accompany him into France; and on the 25th of the same reign, 1297, he was summoned, as a Baron, to Parliament. In the 32nd of the same reign, 1304, he obtained a charter of free warren for all his lands in demesne (a liberty which after the Norman Conquest was absolutely necessary for every landholder, who was disposed to enjoy himself on his own territories), with a license to establish a market upon Tuesday, in every week, at Cucklington, with a fair yearly, on the eve, day, and morrow after the Feast of All Saints, and on the seven ensuing days. This Henry L'Orti granted to the Abbey of Brindon, in Dorsetshire, all suit of court, with the homage, etc., in Stoke Trister manor. He died, 14th Edward II., 1321, leaving issue Henry, his son and heir, who by a deed dated 19th Edward II., 1326, granted to

Thomas Attayshe Baker, a messuage, with two yards of land, two acres of meadow, and two acres of wood in Curry Rivell and Langport Westover, parcel of the demesne lands of Curry Rivell, Pitney, and Stoke Trister, all held of the King in chief by a Knight's service. This Henry L'Orti died 15th Edward III., 1342, seized of all the manors forming the barony of Urtiaco, which consisted of Langport Eastover, Westover, Bradley, the hundreds of Abdick and Bulstone, Erns-hill, Curry Rivell, Martock, and Stoke Trister. He was succeeded by John, his son and heir, who inherited the estate, but left no male issue. He was twice Knight of the Shire in the time of Edward III. He gave the manor of Pitney about the 13th Edward III., to Ralph de Middleney, Knight, who had married his sister Elizabeth. About 1332 he married Elizabeth Child, of Stanford, who survived him without issue. He also had a brother Richard de L'Orti, 37th Edward III. This Ralph de Middleney was seized of lands in this borough as well as Curry Rivell. He took his name from the hamlet of Middleney, within the parish of Drayton, and bore for his arms three snails. He died, 35th Edward III., as appears from an obit kept for him in the Abbey of Muchelney,

The arms of Revel were, Erm : a chev gu ; and those of L'Orti, Az : on a cross or . . .

In the eighteenth year of the reign of Edward III., 1345, the manor belonged to William de Montacute as well as the rest of the barony of Urtiaco ; he had a capital seat and mansion at Donyatt, in this county, which, the 2nd Edward III., he caused to be fortified and embattled, but having done this without license, he was obliged to sue the King's pardon, which he obtained,

as likewise to impark a certain portion of his lands within this parish. For his great merit, and for his great and important services, he was created Earl of Salisbury, 16th March, 1337.

A leper hospital for poor lepers, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, was founded here before the year 1310; when, Archer says, Bishop Drovensford granted the lepers here a brief to collect alms throughout his diocese for their support. An indulgence also was granted by Rd. Melford, Bishop of Salisbury, to the benefactors of this hospital. My friend, the Rev. Thomas Hugo, has very kindly looked over MS. Harl, 862, which he says simply states the fact of an episcopal indulgence of forty days being granted to all who shall aid in the good work of the leper hospital at Langport. A short time since, in pulling down an old house on the north side of the street leading to the river belonging to the Corporation, remains of an ecclesiastical building were found of the style of the before-mentioned period, and the remains of which are in the museum, and it is very probable to have been the remains of this hospital. Such an hospital was generally located outside a town, and this spot must have been far removed from the borough of Langport, which at that time was situated on the hill. The living of Langport is vicarial, and is united to Huish Episcopi, and both form a peculiar of the Archdeacon of Wells.

Not far from the Church is the fortified entrance to the town; it consists of a stone archway, with a Chapel above, which is generally supposed to have been a wayside Chapel. It is called Hanging Chapel, from the circumstance of three persons having been hanged there, for being engaged in Monmouth's rebellion, by Judge Jeffreys, about 1685; their names were Humphrey Pierce, Nicholas Venting, and

John Sellwood. James Hurd, of Langport, was one of the persons excepted from the general amnesty, or act of oblivion, issued by James II., 10th March, 1686.

On the conclusion of Mr. Munckton's paper, and previous to the departure of the company to examine the Earthworks around Langport, and the Churches, &c., the Rev. F. Warre gave a brief notice of the

Langport Earthworks.

MR. WARRE stated that the ancient earthworks around Langport were so completely cut up by modern enclosures, that an explanation was necessary before they went to visit them. He intimated his opinion that earthworks had been thrown up in the locality by the Belgic invaders : that there had once been a British cattle station there : and that there had also been in very early times a fixed town of residence, and place of strength on this spot. On the other side of the river the rising ground had evidently been scarped on all sides into terraces, not unlike the slopes of the Glastonbury Tor. On the side where access from the marsh was easier, he had discovered the remains of a British stone rampart, and he believed that it had been a station in Romano-British times. He found two or three of the flat stones of the country pierced for pegs, clearly of the Roman time ; and had no doubt that there were vestiges of a large and important British town of the primæval type.

The Excursion.

The first halting point of the pedestrian tour round Langport was the beautiful

Church of Huish Episcopi.

MR. J. H. PARKER explained the various points of interest in the building. He said it was a Church of several dates. The doorway was of the time of Henry II., but the outer door of the porch was of the 13th century. The walls were of the 14th century, and the arches were of the same date. The windows generally were of the 14th century ; in some the tracery had been cut out, and the 15th century tracery put in. The Chapel appeared to have been thrown out in the 15th century ; but in buildings of the Perpendicular style, it was difficult to fix dates. Accurate dates as to this style would be of the utmost service, and this was the county of all others to ascertain them in. The Church towers of Somerset were magnificent, and the tower of this Church was one of the finest specimens. Investigations of wills would bring forward a great deal of incidental and interesting information, and would often lead to the fixing of dates respecting the fabrics of old Churches. Cathedrals had a separate and certain fabric-fund, but parish Churches were built in former times, much as they are now, by public subscription. It was a popular opinion that these magnificent towers were built by the Monks in the time of Henry VIII., and that those ecclesiastics, when they found the money must go, preferred to spend it for the glory of God rather than for the good of the State. He was afraid that the idea, though a pretty one, was entirely

imaginary, inasmuch as the naves and towers of the Churches never did belong to the Monasteries. The chancel was left to the Monastery, but the nave was as much secular as ecclesiastical. The nave was always built by the laity, and not by the clergy; and he considered that these beautiful towers constituted a proof of the wealth of the county at the period of their erection. They were probably raised all through the 15th and down to the middle of the 16th century.

It was common to assume that they were all of the time of Henry VII. and Henry VIII., but he suspected that some of them might be earlier. The chancel windows of this Church were all of the 15th century. He regretted the absence of Mr. Freeman, who knew Somersetshire Churches better than any man in England. There had originally been two chantry Chapels, forming one aisle; but the windows were not built at the same time. The letters "I. H. U. S." in one of the stained glass windows, shewed that the Latin form of the name of our Saviour was used instead of the Greek, and was not, in his opinion, a reliable guide as to date. Although the ceiling was whitewashed, it was by no means a bad one, and seemed to be the original. The oblique opening in the corner of the chancel wall was popularly called "a squint," and enabled persons in the side aisle, or transept, to see the Priest at the altar, and also assisted the voice in a wonderful way. Ignorant people blocked up these openings, and he was pleased to see that the squint in this Church had been left open. The staircase-entrance to the rood-loft was ornamented; in most Churches it was plain.

After an inspection of the exterior of the Church, Mr. Parker directed the attention of the company to

the tower, one of the finest of its kind and type among the beautiful Somerset towers. The mode of filling up the belfry windows with stonework, instead of boards, was almost peculiar to this county, and was much to be admired. The recent restoration of the tower appeared to him to have been carefully executed. The parapet and battlements had certainly been well restored. He should be glad to see images restored to the niches ; for there was no probability of their being worshipped in these days, and an empty niche was an unmeaning thing. The pinnacles of the centre buttresses of the tower had been cut off; and he was gratified to hear that it was intended to replace the pinnacles.

A visit was made to the old Vicarage House, on the opposite side of the road, to inspect old coats of arms inserted in the wall. Mr. Parker said the arms were those of Henry VII. ; the walls of the house had been re-built, and the stone door-ways, windows, and arms re-inserted.

The Hanging Chapel,

now occupied as a museum by Mr. E. Quekett, brother of the deceased Professor, was next visited. Mr. Parker said it was manifestly a very old building ; but it could not have been a gateway or part of a fortification, as there was no porteullis groove, and no gate-hinges. He ventured to question the interpretation given by Mr. Munckton of the name Hanging-Chapel, inasmuch as he knew several similar Chapels with the same title. He expected that in this case the story was made to fit the name, and not the name to fit the fact. Chapels over archways were often called Hanging Chapels. Mr. Munckton declared it was quite true that the three men were hung at that Chapel.

Langport Church

was then inspected. MR. PARKER considered the tower to be of the time of Henry VII., and added sometime after the body of the Church was erected. A piece of sculpture over the inner door of the porch was very curious, representing a lamb inside a ring, the ring being held by two angels, and a bishop standing on either side. The chancel was the richest and best part of the Church; the ceiling was particularly good, and the richer part, as was often the case, was that over the altar. If the old colour of the ceiling were restored it would be a beautiful object, as it was a fine piece of work. The whole chancel was a fine specimen of Perpendicular work of about the 14th century. The badge of Richard III., the Paulett arms, and the Heron arms were to be seen in the stained glass of the east chancel window. The glass was good English glass of the period. English stained windows had more white glass than the windows of other nations, our ancestors having had the good sense to know that in this island light should not be shut out as in the south. The oblique opening, or squint, in the pillar had been left unstopped. The ceilings of the nave had been spoiled.

Subsequently the party visited the grounds of Mr. Vincent Stuckey, and Hurd's Hill, and walked round fields outside the town, under the guidance of the Rev. F. Warre, who pointed out what he believed to have been earthworks and other ancient British remains.

Shortly after six the members and their friends dined together at the Langport Arms.

Evening Meeting.

At eight o'clock a second meeting was held in the Town Hall, for the reception of papers and discussion.

The REV. T. HUGO read a paper on Athelney Abbey, and MR. WALTER BAGEHOT gave an account of the Battle of Langport during the Civil Wars of the time of Charles I., and the position taken and influence exerted by the Club-men of those days.

Wednesday : Excursion.

Muchelney Abbey

WAS the first place visited, where the remains of the ancient structure were examined under the guidance and direction of MR. PARKER.

Of Muchelney Abbey there are considerable remains, consisting chiefly of the Abbot's House, with a small portion of the cloister, which joined on to it. The Abbey Church is said to have been entirely destroyed, and the present Church is understood by Mr Freeman, apparently with good reason, to be only the parish Church, which was situated immediately outside of the Abbey gates, according to the usual custom. The Church is a good plain parish Church of the fifteenth century, of the usual character of the district. Immediately opposite to it is the old Vicarage House of the same age as the Church, and a good example of a small plain gentleman's house of the latter part of the fifteenth century, unusually perfect ; scarcely any alteration has been made in it excepting the inserting a floor in the Hall, which may easily be removed. The doorway belongs to a previous house about a century older than the present one, and has been used again.

The old wooden door, with its ironwork, has been preserved; but belongs to the same age as the present house, not to that of the doorway.

The cloister was then examined, which Mr. Parker observed must have been a very fine one, with a stone vault of fan tracery, and the walls paneled; a small portion of it only remains, with a low room over it, probably part of the library, or *scriptorium*. It is not large enough or lofty enough for the dormitory, which had commonly a roof like a hall, with a passage down the centre and cells on each side; there would not have been space for this over the cloister. The back wall of this building is richly paneled, which is very uncommon; it seems to have formed one side of the Abbot's court. The Abbot's house is a very fine example of a wealthy gentleman's house of the time of Henry VII. or VIII., and nearly perfect, though only used as a farm-house. The Abbot's chamber on the first floor is perfect, but divided into two parts by a wooden partition, it has a good wide stone staircase up to it, and it retains the wainscot and settle of the time of Henry VIII., with the linen panel, and a good crest of open-work. There is also an old barn, and there are many fragments of earlier work with a lancet window.

From hence the party proceeded to

Kingsbury Episcopi,

the beautiful Church of which is well known as one of the finest of the Churches of the Somersetshire types of the Perpendicular style, with their magnificent towers, and has a fine rood loft and screen.

Considerable fragments of the Vicarage House of the time of Henry VII. have been built up in the form of

a modern house, rather ingeniously, to give the appearance of being in their original place.

The next place visited was

Marlock,

abounding in excellent specimens of the style of domestic architecture of comparatively recent date, so characteristic of the towns and villages around the quarries of Ham Hill. Here also is another very fine Church and Tower of the same style, and has been carefully restored.

At Marlock the

Old Manor House

of the latter part of the fourteenth century remains nearly perfect, though divided into small tenements. The principal feature is of course the hall. It is a good example of an ordinary gentleman's hall of the time of Richard II. or the end of Edward III., and has the windows perfect, with late Decorated tracery, and the two seats in the sill of each, which always distinguish a hall window from a church or chapel window. The kitchen also remains perfect, and forms one side of the servants' court at the back of the hall. The music gallery and screen have been plastered over and modernised, the buttery and pantry, with the handsome guest chamber over them, are turned into a cottage and divided by wooden partitions. There are no remains of the stairs, and the lord's apartments at the upper end of the hall are divided into small modern tenements and spoiled. In the hall there are two handsomely carved stone brackets, either for lights to be placed on, or merely for some ornamental purpose. It is altogether one of the most perfect small manor houses of that period that we have remaining.

From here the company proceeded to

South Petherton.

South Petherton Church is another fine Perpendicular Church, which has recently been restored.

The house called "King Ina's Palace," is a very neat and beautiful example of a manor house of the times of Henry VII. and VIII., the walls are perfect, and the the double long window is one of the most beautiful things of the kind that we have anywhere remaining. It does not belong to the hall, but to a dining-room, with a drawing-room over it, marking the period when the great change in the habits of the people was taking place, when the hall was going out of use, and a separate dining-room was required. These two rooms form a separate wing of the house, and are brought out considerably in advance of the hall, which forms the centre of the house ; this wing is on the same side as the kitchen and offices, on the same end of the hall ; but the chambers at the upper end are comparatively insignificant, so that the old mediæval arrangement was almost abandoned, although the hall was still retained, and has the old fireplace and open turret wing. The woodwork is all in a bad state of repair, but the walls are sound, and the arrangement of the house has scarcely been altered at all. It is a very valuable example, and ought to be carefully preserved.

Passing through Shepton Beauchamp the company arrived at

Barrington Court.

Barrington Court is a very fine and rich example of a nobleman's house of the latest Tudor or early Elizabethan style,—a large quadrangular mass, with projecting wings, the walls perfect, with their numerous turrets, small gables, twisted chimneys and pinnacles, and finials, all of stone,

boldly and finely carved, producing a marvellously fine and picturesque effect, and one of the most beautiful looking houses that we have any where. The windows are very numerous, square headed, with mullions and transoms. The interior is unfortunately entirely modernized and spoiled, a portion of it is of the time of James I., with wainscot and fireplaces of that period, but nothing earlier. At the top of the house is one of the long galleries, usual at the period, which seems to have extended quite round the house, but is entirely spoiled.

Barrington Church is another example of the older Somersetshire cruciform type, with central octagonal tower; and was pronounced by Mr. Parker to be a genuine little Church of the time of King Henry III.

The last point of attraction for the day's excursion was Curry Rivel Church, in which Mr. Munckton read a short paper, and Mr. Parker appended a few remarks. The magnificent perpendicular transomed windows of this Church, with their pierced quatrefoils at the spandrils, the very beautiful early English work of window and tomb in the chantry chapel, the remains of the great rood screen, so richly carved, and the oak stalls and benches surmounted with finials, were justly admired.

A Conuersazione

In the Town Hall, in the evening, brought the proceedings of the day to a close, at which all the Members of the Society present were sumptuously entertained by the Local Committee and the Members residing near Langport.

A very varied and extensive collection of works of art, specimens of natural history, and objects of antiquarian interest had been brought together on the occasion.

Short addresses were delivered, and a cordial vote of thanks presented to the inhabitants of Langport for the cordial and hospitable reception with which they had favoured the Society.

Thursday : Excursion.

A LARGE party assembled, according to agreement, at the

Parish Church of Pitney,

but the Members of the Society were not allowed to examine the interior, the doors being locked, and the keys having been taken away. Of this Church, MR. PARKER observed, it has a modern Gothic chancel, in tolerably good imitation of the old style, but not satisfactory; the nave and tower are of the latter part of the fourteenth century, probably of the time of Richard II., the style being a transition between the Decorated and the Perpendicular. The interior of the Church is still disfigured with donkey boxes, in all the bad taste of the last century.

From hence the company proceeded to a field in the occupation of Mr. Chambers, where the foundation of what seemed to be a Roman wall, had been brought to light, and a quantity of pottery, Roman and Romano-British, had been dug up, together with two or three pieces of Samian ware. Here, also, were found some of the large heavy roof tiles, with the nails in them by which they had been made fast. This neighbourhood, commanding a most extensive and magnificent view, would seem to have been thickly populated during the time of the Roman occupation, as in almost every field, fragments of pottery and tesserae are being continually ploughed up.

The excursionists then proceeded to the site of the Roman villa—known as the

Pitney Villa,

explored by Mr. Hasell many years ago, where the Rev. W. A. Jones, in conjunction with the Local Secretaries, had, on excavation, brought to light a beautiful tessellated floor not previously explored. Here MR. JONES gave a brief sketch of the arrangements of the Roman villas, and the details of that one in particular, the pavements and the foundations of many of the walls, of which had been laid open. The elaborate and costly ornamentation which everywhere prevailed in these Roman villas was referred to as a sure evidence of the quiet and peaceful possession which the Romans enjoyed in this country. It was not to be supposed any people would have laid down such elaborate tessellated pavements as that now before them, if they knew they were liable to be disturbed in the enjoyment of them. Mr. Jones also noticed the hypothesis advanced by the late Sir R. C. Hoare, that this villa was occupied by some man of eminence connected with the Mining Works on Mendip. This he did not himself consider at all probable. The distance was too great, and the explanation of the figures delineated in the pavement, on which the hypothesis was based, was described as altogether fanciful and untenable. From an examination of the tiles, of which the roof of the villa was composed, it was evident that while the greater part was covered with the thick heavy tiles from the lias in the neighbourhood, the thinner and lighter slates, which are not to be found nearer to this spot than Wiveliscombe, had also been used. The upper portion of the walls of the villa were no doubt composed of wood-work. Mr. Jones

also referred to the fragments of Ham-hill stone and other things which had evidently been acted upon by great heat, as a proof that the Villa had been destroyed by *fire*, probably during the time of the Saxon invasion. For more than one hundred years this locality had been the battle-field of the Romano-British, who were Christians, and the pagan Saxons. During that time possibly every vestige of Roman civilization was destroyed.

Before leaving the Pitney pavement, a vote of thanks was carried by acclamation to Mr. Fry, of Curry Rivel, for the zeal and energy with which he had directed and superintended the excavations.

The next point reached was

Low Ham,

with its Church and the ruins of the great manor house of the Stawells.

Low Ham Church is a curious and very perfect example of the revival of Gothic, in the time of James I. It exhibits a singular mixture of details of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, carefully copied and jumbled together as if on purpose to puzzle a tyro ; windows with Decorated tracery, and the jambs devoid of all character. Perpendicular patterns, with Decorated scroll moulding in the abacus of the Perpendicular capital, and other anomalies. But it has a good paneled ceiling, and screen, and the general effect is very good. It is remarkable also, that there is not the slightest trace of Italian detail, although in Elizabethan houses, long before the date of this Church, classical columns and details are freely used. The founder and his wife are represented in a tomb at the east end of the north aisle, and their effigies are well preserved, with an inscription recording their good

deeds. The building is rendered peculiarly interesting, on account of its being in one sense, a copy of a mediæval Church. It is an instance of the attempt made early in the reign of Charles I., to revive the architecture of the middle ages. It was, in fact, a page in the history of this country, indicating the tendency of the High Church and Royalist party, as contrasted with the opposite leaning of the Puritan element in the National Church at that time. Without the knowledge, which local history supplied, the age which the architecture would have suggested, would have ante-dated the Church some centuries.

MR. PRANKERD here read an elaborate and detailed account of the funeral procession of Lord Stawell, who had died in this parish and was buried in Cothelstone Church.

Of the sumptuous mansion which Lord Stawell began to build but never completed, only bare walls and mounds of rubbish, covering a considerable extent of ground, remain to point out the site.

The Church of High Ham

was the next point of interest. High Ham Church is a fine structure in the usual Perpendicular style of the district, in good preservation, and is rendered more than usually valuable by having the date recorded in an inscription on the tomb of the rector, who re-built it, which gives the date of 1474. Dated examples should always be carefully sought for and recorded for the purpose of comparison with others, and as tests of the accuracy of the received chronology of architecture. Their details should also be closely examined, to endeavour to find more distinguishing marks between early and late Perpendicular than are at present recorded. We may say generally that

the older work is bolder and more masculine, the later work more shallow and feeble ; but this by no means holds true in all cases.

Before descending from the high ground the Natural History section of the Society explored the extensive excavations carried on in the marls of the New red sandstone for gypsum, found here in great quantities, and conveyed to Bridgwater to be manufactured into cement, &c.

A steep descent down Beer Hill brought the party into the alluvial plain, where the

Church of Othery,

lately restored at the expense of the Rev. Dr. Shipton, excited much interest and admiration.

Othery Church is a very remarkable one—cruciform in plan with an octagonal central tower ; originally built in the thirteenth century, but with great alterations in the fourteenth and fifteenth. The lower part of the tower is part of the original work, with the arches which carry it, and the very singular diagonal buttresses in the angles, formed by the junction of the transepts, with the church and chancel. On the south side of the chancel, close to the transept, is the well known and very singular low side window, which some people call a Lychnoscope, but as this name implies a theory now exploded, and as no three people ever can agree which is the Lychnoscope and which the Hagioscope, the use of these names only causes confusion. Opposite to this low window an opening is made through the buttress, which certainly might be to enable people to see a light placed in this window, but very few people, only those in a direct line with it could do this, for the transept comes in the way on the west side, and the

buttress on the east. It seems far more probable that it was the leper's window, to enable lepers to communicate without danger of infection to the congregation or to the priest who administered the consecrated wafer at the end of a cleft stick, the whole space from the window, through the opening to the outside of the buttress is only one foot. It must be remembered also that the faithful can communicate by the eye as well as by the other senses, and that lepers, congregated in the churchyard, could see the elevation of the host through the opening, provided that the priest stood there for that purpose. In some other examples there is a stone desk for a book by the side of the opening, and there was, no doubt, a chantry altar at that spot. In Othery Church there is also a squint, or oblique opening, from the south transept, directed to the same spot, and which does not appear to be directed to the high altar, though it might perhaps serve for that also; or if we must use the fanciful and newly invented technical names, this is an instance of a Hagioscope and a Lychnoscope combined in one; if this renders the description more intelligible.

The Saxon hamlet of

Aller,

the scene of the Danish viking, King Guthrum's baptism, after his defeat by King Alfred, when that monarch stood sponsor at the font, was next visited; and the way that led to it was indeed a delightful one, and the view especially from Turn Hill was surpassingly beautiful. Before the travellers lay Athelney, the great Alfred's retreat, when doubt and uncertainty, perplexity and misfortune, clouded his path. Of the Abbey that he founded there hardly remains a stone that can be identified, saving a few frag-

ments of encaustic tiles, and some sculptured bosses. On arriving at Aller the whole company was invited to partake of the sumptuous and abundant hospitality of Mrs. Hyde, which was thankfully accepted and duly acknowledged by the President and the Officials of the Society.

Aller Church.

Of this Church Mr. Parker observed that it was an interesting small Church, with two remarkable turrets; the nave is under repair, but the original open-timber roof of the end of the fourteenth century has been preserved. The most remarkable feature is, however, the western tower, which has very narrow aisles or wings, with roofs of solid ashlar stone, instead of the usual timber and slate, and flying buttresses to connect the two eastern angles with the arch of the nave; the western angles are strengthened one by the stone turret, the other by a bold diagonal buttress. The object of all this ingenious arrangement seems to be to widen the base of the tower, and enable it to carry a spire, although no spire has been built. The old font, of the twelfth century, is preserved in the garden of the rectory, and part of the rectory-house is of the fifteenth century, but much modernised. The font was pronounced by some to be even of as early a date as the Saxon period.

Here the proceedings of the Annual Meeting were formally brought to a close, votes of thanks having been unanimously passed to the General Secretaries, the Local Secretaries, Mr. Prankerd and Mr. Munkton, and to the President.

Local Museum.

The following objects of interest, among others, were exhibited in the local museum :—

Roman pottery, scoriæ, Samian ware, tiles, bones, oyster shells, tessellated pavement, and other Roman remains recently discovered at Pitney.—MR. PRANKERD.

A fine old engraving of Wells Cathedral, dedicated to Dean Brailsford; remains of a tessellated pavement found at St. John's Priory, Wells; and a water-colour drawing, by Mr. A. Clark, of a quaint Vicar's choral chamber, in the Vicars' Close, at Wells.—REV. A. DUCANE.

A very perfect specimen of Plesiosaurus; a head of Ichthyosaurus, from Street; and a clock, said to be 300 years old.—MR. GILLET, of Langport.

A drawing of St. John's Priory, Wells.—LADY AUCKLAND.

A portfolio of sketches and drawings relating to Somerset subjects, and illustrating localities included in the proposed excursions of the Society for this meeting. Amongst the numerous sketches were a water-colour drawing of the interior of the Abbot's Chamber, at Muchelney, by Rayner, of Brighton; a Fourteenth Century window in the Bishop's Palace, at Wells; an early drawing, by Pugin, of a golden chalice; and bosses, found on the site of Athelney Abbey.—MR. A. CLARK.

A pair of jackboots and two rapiers found in an old manor-house, at Burrow, near Westmoor.—MR. W. BARRETT, of Moreden House.

The Langport silver-gilt mace, of the time of Charles I., supposed to have been presented to the town by that monarch.—THE PORTTREEVE.

A sword and cannon-ball, picked up in Sedgmoor.—MR. H. KNIGHT.

A fine Fourteenth Century capital, found in an old house, at Drayton.—MR. J. PARSONS.

A fetter-lock, found at Langport.—MR. J. H. F. WARREN.

“The Battle of Sedgmoor, Rehearst at White Hall—a Farce.”—REV. W. A. JONES.

Two skulls of an extinct species of hyena, part of the thigh bone of an elephant, a rhinoceros horn, and other bones, discovered in the fissure of a cliff, at Brixham, Torbay, and a specimen of the submarine forest at Torbay. MR. R. W. WOLSTON.

Athelney pavements of the Thirteenth Century, and a tile from Muchelney Abbey.—MR. A. CLARKE.

A drawing of Alfred’s jewel, now in the Ashmolean Museum, found in Athelney ; together with old chairs, antique china, and an ancient account-book which formerly belonged to the Lord Stawell, of the time of Charles II., who then resided in a fine mansion, at Low Ham, near Langport.

Fourteenth Annual Meeting.

THE Fourteenth Annual General Meeting was held at Wellington on the 20th August, 1862, EDWARD AYSHFORD SANFORD, Esq., President, in the chair.

The PRESIDENT, in opening the proceedings, assured the members he was speaking the sentiments of all the residents in this neighbourhood when he said they were very much indebted to the members of the Archæological Society for coming there to hold their Annual Meeting. He considered it a matter for congratulation, as it afforded an opportunity to individuals for seeking information relative to the history and antiquities of the town and neighbourhood, while it gave the members of this Society an opportunity to communicate the information they may have acquired. He was proud to say that he was surrounded at that moment by a considerable number of gentlemen who had made antiquity their study—not only the antiquity of architecture, but even antiquity as to the formation of the globe. The temporary museum contained many curiosities and fossil remains worthy of observation, and which, doubtless, would afford matter for discussion; but he was rather afraid that his antiquarian friends would hardly find a sufficient number of antiquities to repay them for coming, but such as there were he had no doubt would be shown to them most readily. Laying aside his official position as their President and taking up his natural character of a resident in the neighbourhood he had much pleasure in giving them a hearty welcome to Wellington.

The Secretary, the Rev. F. WARRE, then read the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

“MY LORDS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,—Your Committee have, on the occasion of our Fourteenth Annual Meeting, nearly the same causes for congratulation and regret as they had when they presented their last Report. Now, as then, they may safely say that the Society has not made a single retrograde step during the year, except in their having delayed the publication of the volume of *Proceedings* for 1861 until the time for bringing out that relating to 1862, a step rendered imperative by the unfavourable state of the finances of the Society, which has been in a great measure caused by the irregularity of members in paying their subscriptions. This delay, however, the Committee believe, will not eventually be in any degree detrimental to the interests, either of the Society generally, or of the members individually. The loss of the expected number has been made up to the newly-elected members by the presentation to them of the volume for last year, to which, ordinarily, they would not have been entitled, and the Committee hope by this arrangement to issue, early next year, a larger and more costly volume than they would otherwise have been justified in undertaking.

“The interest taken by the public in the welfare of the Society has been evinced by the presentation and deposit of articles of value and rarity in the museum, while the number of subscribing members has been fairly kept up, the list now containing 408 names, shewing a diminution of three from last year, by death, removal, &c. The Committee venture to hope that a considerable addition may be made to the list of members at this meeting and

during the ensuing year; and they would urge on the members of the Society the importance of exerting themselves in this way to promote its welfare and increase its efficiency.

“The limited income at the disposal of the Committee has prevented them from making any outlay during the year in any special archæological investigation with the exception of the excavations made on the site of a Roman Villa at High Ham, near Langport. In this case the Committee had much pleasure in co-operating with members of the Society in the neighbourhood, whose zeal and energy in the undertaking they would also commend to the imitation of their friends in other districts. A ground plan of this villa (as far as it could be made out) and an accurate drawing of the tessellated pavement were executed under the direction of your Secretaries; and by the kindness of W. W. Munckton, Esq., a very valuable and interesting collection of the Roman Remains and other relics from High Ham and Curry Rivel have been deposited in the museum.

“During the construction of the Watchet Railway a large collection of Romano-British pottery was made by the Rev. W. A. Jones, one of your Secretaries, near Norton Fitzwarren, and presented to the museum. The circumstances under which they were discovered would imply the strong probability of the existence of a large manufactory of earthenware on that spot, and the similarity in texture and pattern as compared with pottery found in other places would lead us to suppose that a great portion of the common ware used by the Romano-Britons of this county was supplied from Norton. The fact that this extensive series of specimens, so valuable for illustration, would in all probability have been buried under the

The following gentlemen were elected on the Committee:—J. H. Pring, M.D., Rev. W. R. Clark, W. G. Rawlinson, W. P. Pinchard, W. E. Gillett, M.D., W. M. Kelly, M.D., J. R. Allen, W. W. Coker, J. F. Norman, H. Alford, Rev. W. T. Redfern.

On the motion of W. A. SANFORD, Esq., seconded by F. H. DICKINSON, Esq., it was resolved that the next Annual Meeting be held at Wells. 1400907

The following resolution was also carried:—"That this Society pledges itself to further the objects and promote the interests of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in connection with the proposed meeting of that society at Bath, and that they concur in the memorial of the Mayor of Bath to the Council of the Association that they should hold their meeting in Bath in 1863, or as soon as may be after."

The President then said they should proceed, after having gone through that part of the proceedings which might not have been very interesting to some, to that which he trusted would be very gratifying to all. In this neighbourhood there were not many remains of antiquity that would be interesting to archæologists; but there were objects which were certainly of deep interest to the residents. The churches in this county are very beautiful. The reason why they had attained to such beauty in design, he would leave others to determine, and would simply state the fact. He congratulated the people of this county upon possessing churches such as would bear comparison with any in the kingdom. The Church of this town is a very fine one, and it always struck him that its proportions were very beautiful indeed. It had been restored by his late lamented friend Mr. Proctor Thomas, and he believed that those conversant with the

style of architecture would say that its old character had been well preserved. There used to be a dreadful gallery at one end of it, which covered the belfry arch, but that has been removed, and the fine arch is now exposed to view. There was formerly a beautiful screen in the church which has been taken away; and that is an instance of the value of such a society as this, for, had there been an Archæological Society existing in those days, that screen would probably have been preserved. It is to societies such as this that we are indebted for the preservation of ancient remains. There is in this church a very curious monument to Chief Justice Popham, who lies buried there. A more remarkable man did not live in his day (in the time of Elizabeth). The Manor of Wellington formerly belonged to him, and he (the chairman) always considered it had been given to him by the Crown, but he had learned through the medium of this Society that such was not the case. The house in which he lived was destroyed during the civil wars. It stood upon the site of the present residence of his friend Dr. Bridge and it is said that Lady Jane Grey once resided in it. They would visit it, as there are portions yet remaining that might be interesting, and which his excellent friend had invited them to inspect. There are but few old mansions in this neighbourhood; but there was one they would have the pleasure of visiting, having been kindly invited by Mr. Rayer, the proprietor of Holcombe Court. It is of ancient date, although not so old as he took it to be. But this afforded an instance of the advantages of a society of this description, a gentleman who would do them the favour of reading a paper on it, would enlighten them as to the real date of that ancient building, and there is not a greater authority on such matters in the

United Kingdom. Thus, a connection with this Society brought them early to see that they were always in the habit of taking impressions into the mind without investigation, and assists them to learn that which they had not learned in their early days. There is also in this neighbourhood, some very remarkable lime works which are very curious. There is a great mass of slate and limestone raised up there, and the wonderful manner in which the strata are tossed about shows the marvellous and wonderful powers of nature. This will be matter for the gentlemen who take an interest in them, and in the geological history of the county.

The Rev. THOMAS HUGO, M.A., then read a paper on "Canyngham Priory", which is printed in the second part of the present volume.

J. H. PARKER, Esq., continued his "Gleanings from Antiquities at Wells," part of which is printed in this volume.

The Rev. F. WARRE read for the writer, R. K. M. King, Esq., a paper on "Entries in the Parish Records of West Monkton;" and the Rev. J. R. GREEN read a paper on "St. Dunstan," both of which are printed in the present volume.

The members then proceeded to examine

Wellington Church

under the guidance and direction of Mr. E. A. FREEMAN, who said it was a church of the usual parochial type—local Perpendicular, retaining some small Early English portions. In a great number of the churches of the county there were to be found many vestiges of an earlier period, but here there were not more than two or three. The eastern window, the niche at the end of the north chancel aisle,

which had been moved from its proper place in the north aisle, and the south porch were the only ones which he had noticed in the cursory glance which he had had of the building. These, however, did not affect the general outline and character of the building, as was the case in many other churches. The mouldings of the south door were very curious indeed. The mouldings of the arch were of Early English character, very rough, and seemed like imitations. A stone over the southern doorway, with the date 1577 on it, contained the names of two churchwardens, during whose term of office the church was probably rebuilt and the old materials then used. The eastern window manifestly belonged to the earliest days of tracery, the end of the 13th century, before the geometrical system was fully developed. He missed the shafts running up to the roof and above the string of the arches, which gave a degree of finish to a church which this did not possess. Here they had the plain arches and the plain clerestory windows above them. Any one who had seen Bruton, Martock, or any of the really grand churches of the county, would notice this. The best thing in the church was the belfry arch, which was lofty and beautiful, but even there he missed the vaulted roof which he saw in so many other towers. The chancel arch was inferior, and the effect of its being raised had been to disturb somewhat the proportions of the chancel. The tower was a most curious part of the building. The arrangement of the belfry staircase was very unusual, being made in the middle of one side. In the Taunton type of towers it stood in one corner, being worked in among the pinnacles and buttresses; in the Bristol type it stood boldly out at one corner, but here it was quite different, preventing any good arrangements in the belfry windows in the upper

storey. The roof of this church seemed to be new or a good deal touched up, and he was always glad to see the local form retained, whether it was new or not.

The PRESIDENT remarked that the roof was all plastered and the woodwork retained, on which Mr. Freeman said "Then we have a genuine coved waggon or barrel roof, which is characteristic of the county, but which, unfortunately, people too frequently get rid of as fast as they can."

On leaving the church the members visited Dr. Bridge's residence, and examined the few ancient remains left of Lord Chief Justice Popham's mansion, consisting of some arches of the Tudor period.

In the afternoon there was a cold collation in the Town Hall, which was numerously attended; the band of the Wellington Rifle Corps playing during the time.

At the evening meeting, the proposal to publish Mr. Parker's paper on Wells, with suitable illustrations, was submitted to the meeting by Colonel Pinney, M.P., and it was finally agreed that a special subscription be solicited for this purpose.*

The Rev. Prebendary SCARTH read a paper on "Roman Remains found at Camerton," which is given in part II.

An historical sketch of the parish of Wellington, by F. WHITE, Esq., was read, in which it was stated that the earliest historical account of it commences with the reign of King Alfred, who gave the manors of Wellington, Buckland and Lydeard to Asser Menevensis, the tutor of his children, the writer of his life, and an assistant in his literary pursuits. Asser was also Bishop of Sherborne, and so was the grantee under Edward the elder. We may

* NOTE.—The illustrations in the present volume are introduced in virtue of this arrangement.

reasonably assume that when the Bishopric of Wells was erected it was endowed from the possessions of the sec of Sherborne, of which it had before formed a part, and given to Athelmus, who was the first bishop. In the Harleian Library there is a copy of an instrument dated in 1234, which was intended to record the fact of a provost of the church of Wells having undertaken to observe the statutes of the church. In that instrument it is provided "That "the church of Wellington we shall retain to our use, and that of our successors, a certain parcel of land * * * * so that in the same church of Wellington there shall be for ever a vicar, whose vicarage shall consist in all small tithes, bequests, and obventions of the altars, as well of Bokeland as of Wellington, in the tithes of Mills and Hay, except the tithes of our demesne, and the tithes of Hay of the demesne of Gerbert, the Knight of Wellington, and his heirs." The manor and demesne continued in the possession of the bishop until the time of Edward VI., when Bishop Barlow, who afterwards became a voluntary exile, granted it, together with the borough of Wellington, with lands there and divers other appurtenances, to Edward, Duke of Somerset, and his heirs. Wellington received its greatest glory from an honourable inhabitant, Sir John Popham, who is not only memorable for the antiquity of his noble descent, but for his strict justice and unwearied diligence. Sir John Popham and his lady lie entombed in the chapel on the south side of the parish church. On the table of the tomb are the effigies of Sir John and his lady. He is dressed in his judge's robes, chain and small square black cap, and placed with his head towards the west. On the lower basement, at the head and feet, are four other smaller figures of two men and two women, kneeling face to face. On the north side of the same basement

are five boys and eight girls, dressed in black, kneeling in a row; and on the south side are nine women, kneeling in the same manner. Over Sir John and his lady is an arched canopy, ornamented with the family arms, &c., the whole supported by eight round columns of black marble, five feet high, with Corinthian capitals, green and gilt. Near the town Popham built a large and stately house, wherein he resided several years, and during that time greatly enhanced his fortune by the purchase of several very valuable estates in this county and that of Devon. In the time of the great civil war this house was taken by stratagem and burnt. Sir John was a great patron and benefactor of the town, and in pursuance of his will, bearing date 21st September, 1604, an hospital was erected at the west end of the town for the maintenance of twelve poor and aged people, whereof six are to be men and six women, and for two poor men's children (orphans). The president of the hospital was to have 1s. 6d. per week, and to each of the residue of the same poor people twelve pence weekly, and eightpence weekly upon each of the said children until they should be of age or placed with some master or mistress as apprentices for ten years at least, in husbandry. Certain articles of wearing apparel were also to be supplied to the inmates."

Mr. W. BOYD DAWKINS read a paper on "The Bone Cavern in Wookey Hole," which is given in part II.

The Excursion.

Some of the Members, having visited Sampford Arundel, joined the other Members at

Burlescombe,

where the Parish Church was examined. Mr. Freeman directed attention to the characteristic features of the capitals on the pillars on the north and south sides. This church is in the county of Devon. The capitals of the pillars of the arches on the north side of the building were collected into one large flat lozenge, which was the Devonshire type, and, in his opinion, not by any means an elegant one, whilst on the south side the capitals exhibited the usual round mouldings of Somersetshire;* the specimens before them were not very good ones of either. The screen was very good, as was also the sacramental plate, the chalice being a very good Fifteenth Century piece. The tower was of rough country work, apparently a good deal altered in the 17th century, as it bore the date 1677, when the old material composing the former one was again used.

At CANON'S LEIGH the Rev. C. TANNER gave an historical sketch of the Monastery.

Mr. PARKER observed that the remains of the building, considering they belong to the less prominent parts of the Monastery, are a striking indication of its former extent and grandeur.

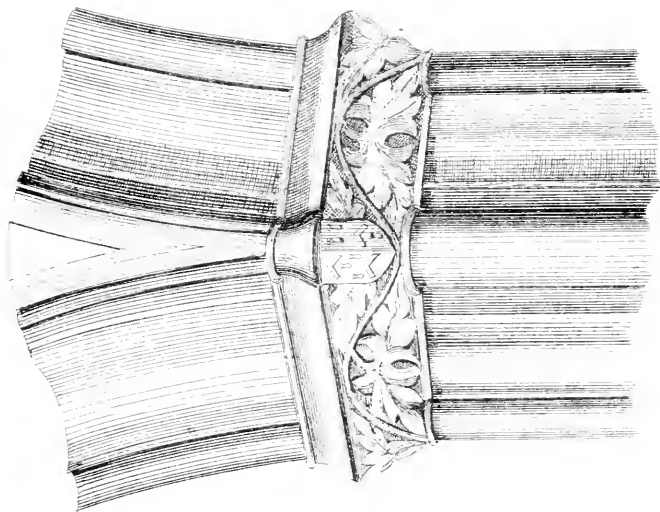
The Quarries of West Leigh

were then explored under the guidance of Mr. Wm. A. Sanford and Mr. C. Moore.

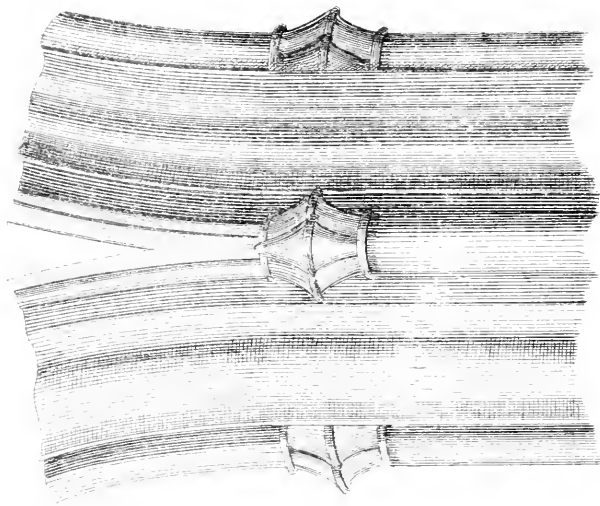
Many carboniferous fossils were found by the naturalists in the quarries at West Leigh, from the southern termina-

* An illustration of this characteristic feature is given in this volume.

Capitals in Barlescombe Church



Devonshire Type



Somersvetschire Type

tion of the great north Somerset range of Devonian and Carboniferous rock, which extended in conformable strata from Lynton Foreland to the limestone at Burlescombe. These limestones belong to the lower portion of the Carboniferous strata and were probably cotemporaneous with some of the Carboniferous limestone of the Mendip. They are much contorted and evince great lateral pressure which was effected, probably, during the later Carboniferous, or, perhaps, in the Permian period, as the later New red sandstone rocks lie almost horizontally and unconformably on the upturned edges and against the upturned strata of the limestone and conformable slate and sandstone. This was cotemporaneous, in a geological sense, with the upheaval of Dartmoor, and was probably in some way connected with that vast movement in the rocks of the south-west of England.

As the further discussion of these important geological movements will form part of a larger design, which, it is hoped, may be carried out through the agency of this Society, no lengthened notice is at present given of the geology of this district.

Afterwards a portion of the party visited the Conglomerate Quarries at Langford, which appear to be of late Triassic date, and found in enclosed pebbles many fossils of the carboniferous period, some beautifully weathered specimens of corals, spirifers, and encrinites.

After leaving the Lime Works the company proceeded to HOLCOMBE ROGUS for the purpose of examining the Court, for centuries the seat of the Bluett family, but which is now in the possession of the Rev. Mr. Rayer, of Tiverton.

The Church of Holcombe Rogus,

Mr. FREEMAN said, was Perpendicular, and presented the

same peculiarity as that of Burlescombe in the arrangement of the capitals of the north and south aisle arches. They were very good local coved roofs—the one over the north aisle was particularly fine. There were no signs of any chancel arch, but there had evidently been a screen and rood-loft, as the place of the staircase was visible, and there appeared to have been a window to light it, similar to some Monmouthshire churches he had seen. The pew belonging to the mansion is surrounded by a kind of carved screen illustrating scripture scenes. The tower is a good bold one, quite plain, Early Perpendicular, and the under part at least is older than the church itself.

On leaving the church a large number of the party adjourned, at the invitation of the Vicar, the Rev. W. Wills, to the school-room, where ample provision had kindly been made for their entertainment.

The next place visited was

Greenham House,

formerly the seat of a family called Greenham. Mr. PARKER explained that the arches of entrance were of the Fourteenth Century, the window over was also of the same date. It appeared to him that parts of the house had been rebuilt about the time of Henry VIII. In the servants' apartments was a window of Richard II.'s time, and it was probably then that the house was founded. It was doubtless much larger than now. The President said it might interest the company to know that the owner of this house was always Lord of the Hundred of Milverton, and this fact showed that the former owners were important men.

The Manor House of Cotehaye,

commonly known as Cotehaye Abbey, was next viewed. It is a perfect residence of the 8th Henry's reign,

without alteration. It was no doubt at one time much larger, the left hand wing of the gate-house and one of the arches of the gate having been removed. In what is now the parlour, is a fine mantel-piece of the time of James II., and the room although built at the same time as the rest of the building was probably altered in that reign.

After thoroughly examining Cothaye, the Archæologists drove to

Langford Buddille,

where the parish Church was inspected. Mr. FREEMAN said they had got back into Somerset again, he could see but few traces of our Devonshire neighbours. The capital of the chancel arch was collected into a lozenge, the remainder of the arches were the usual Perpendicular style. The roof is a cradle one, enriched with bosses; and there is still the door left which led to the rood-loft. A curious feature in the church is the chancel arch, which fits exactly into the roof of the chancel. The tower is bold, very plain, having only square headed belfry windows. There is an excellent parapet over the south aisle, which, although common in the north of the county, is not often found in the south.

A curious example of the last century manner of treating rogues and vagabonds was exhibited in one of the parish registers:—It is there stated, that in Nov. 1682, a blind man aged 40, and an able-bodied one, aged 30, who stated that they came from Sutton, in Hampshire, were publicly whipped in this parish; and that on the 25th October 1754, two other strange men, one of whom was blind, were whipped in public in this parish by order of the Court of Quarter Sessions.

The Rev. F. WARRE said that it was intended at first

to visit some Primeval remains in Bathealton, but it had been discovered that the earthworks were so very much mutilated as to be scarcely recognisable, and although there had at one time doubtless been very considerable remains there, they were now hardly worth visiting.

The PRESIDENT announced that this was the last place to be inspected that day, and that the parish church, West Buckland, was the appointed place of meeting for the morrow.

Second Day : Excursion.

The Members assembled at

West Buckland.

Mr. FREEMAN observed that the church differed very manifestly from those the Society had visited the day before. The nave was seemingly Decorated or Early Perpendicular, with massive octagonal piers quite unlike the local style. There was a chapel south of the chancel, but not north. In the chancel arch a Devonshire capital was inserted, and much curious patching of the old south-east pier was noticed. The western tower was of the Wellington type, with two single-light windows on one side of the belfry turret, the other side being blank. A corbelled pinnacle over the window was pointed out as peculiar, and as producing a bad effect. The roof is a genuine Perpendicular one with an Italian cornice. The clerestory windows appear to have been cut off to save expence at some time when the roof of the church was lowered. The seats were pronounced by Mr. PARKER to be genuine and interesting examples of Fourteenth Century work.

After a brief inspection of Jerbstone Farm House, which

contains some interesting remains of the Elizabethan period, the Members proceeded to

Bradford Church.

The tower of this church is of the Wellington type,—quite Early Perpendicular, very well managed, with single-light windows on each side of the turret. The nave and chancel are Early English with large Perpendicular alterations. The monument of a knight was supposed to be that of the founder of the aisle in which it is situated.

The bridge over the Tone at Bradford, which was considered to have been built in the 13th century, was then examined and greatly admired for its ancient and picturesque appearance.

The Church of Giffarrence

came next. The tower, which is very massive and with a turret on the north side, was pronounced to be of the Wellington type, early, but later than that of Bradford. There are no aisles, and a Perpendicular chapel is added on the south. By a later inscription this is said to have been erected by William de Verriais, A.D., 1333, but the character of the mouldings would give a much later date.

Dak Church

was described as being on the plan of St. Mellons, and of Weston in Gordano. The tower is here on the south, and a chapel on the east. Large Perpendicular windows in the north wall were said to have been “brought here.” They look like insertions, having all the appearance of being inside out, and of being built of materials brought from some other church. The whole church is difficult to understand, having the appearance of frequent alterations and additions.

Milverton Church

was then visited. Mr. FREEMAN remarked that it reminded him of what people sometimes called Quarter-Cathedrals. The northern arcade was original, in the Perpendicular style, and the southern was a copy of it. The tower is very plain, not unlike some in South Wales, only not so rude, with a square turret in the south-east angle. The nave was chiefly Decorated. In the west of the south aisle there is a lobby in which the Archdeacon's court is held.

The old rectory house adjoining the Church is said to have been erected by Cardinal Wolsey, but Mr. PARKER observed it must have been before he became Cardinal, as the arms bear no mitre. There is no cellar nor solar as they observed in the Manor Houses visited on the previous day, but there is a hall with a dais, and a bay-window at the back to contain the side-board. Behind the hall there is a passage leading from the servants' to the other apartments, the adoption of which would make the arrangements of the old houses suitable to our modern requirements. There is a stone staircase at the back leading to a long room extending through the whole of the first floor, which originally was probably the sleeping apartments for the family. The house is not the vicarage house of the parish, but the Archidiaconal residence, the great tithes being the property of the Archdeacon of Taunton, who is also the patron of the living.

From Milverton the Members of the Society proceeded to Nynhead Court, where the hall and the reception rooms were kindly thrown open to all the visitors. Among the interesting family portraits were noticed those of the

famous John Locke, the intimate friend of Mr. Clarke, of Chipley, to whom the "Treatise on Education" is dedicated, and of Sir Harry Vane, an ancestor of the family.

The remains of the old hall which are left, especially in the porches, point to the close of the Fourteenth Century as the date. A portion of the roof of the old hall is still visible in a closet on the first floor.

The Church of Hynchard

has a nave, chancel, south aisle, and chapel at the east end; a north transept abutting on the nave, and a south porch. The tower is the earliest portion of the church, of the Milverton plan, but the stair-turret is stopped at the ringers' floor with a sloping roof—a picturesque arrangement for a small church and preferable to the Milverton arrangement. The tower is of very early Perpendicular work and the tower arch has never been finished. The north transept and chancel are a little later than the tower. The headaddresses on the dripstones are of the time of Henry IV. There is an Early English piscina in the chancel, of good character. The north aisle and chapel are of a little later date. There is a considerable portion of the old rood screen, of very fine Devonshire character, remaining. A very curious stone, with three crosses, of very ancient character, incised, is at the entrance into the chancel, and some sculpture of Early English character was found in taking down and rebuilding the west wall of the south aisle, and where this abutted on the old wall of the nave, rough cast was found, thus showing that the south aisle was an addition and that rough cast was used by the old architects in finishing these buildings.

There is a good Jacobean monument, in good preservation, of the last Warre, of Chipley, with her husband, Mr.

Clarke, and two very fine examples of Luca della Robbia ware, representing the Virgin and Child; one life size is of great beauty and certainly by the master himself; the other is a beautiful composition illustrating the text, "quem genuit adoravit," with lilies on a blue ground. Also a very fine work, in marble, by the rare master Mino da Fiesole, representing the Holy Trinity, with angels; with a picture of our Saviour, by Granacci. These were placed in the church by the late vicar, the Rev. John Sanford.

The remains of ancient earthworks near the church which had been examined by Mr. Warre were not considered of sufficient interest to make them worthy of a public visit, but it was suggested that they were probably of the same date with bronze celts, now at Nynhead, which had been dug up in the park. In the loam of the valley Roman coins, flint instruments, and the molars of *Elephas primigenius* had been found.

A paper on "Roman Remains Found on the Site of the Additions to the Mineral Water Hospital, Bath," was read under the far-spreading branches of the chestnut trees in the lawn, by the Rev. Prebendary SCARTH, which is published in the present volume.

All the Members present and their friends having shared the ample and sumptuous hospitality of the President,

R. N. GRENVILLE, Esq., the High Sheriff, on behalf of the Society, presented their best thanks to Mr. Sanford for the courtesy and kindness with which he had presided over their proceedings, and for the liberal hospitality with which he had entertained the large party then assembled.

The PRESIDENT acknowledged the compliment and expressed the great pleasure which he had in receiving the Society and promoting its well-being. He then proposed

the health of the Secretaries of the Society, to whom they were so much indebted for the success of the meeting.

This being duly acknowledged by the Rev. F. WARRE and the Rev. W. A. JONES,

Mr. Sylvanus Fox and the Local Committee were thanked for the zeal and energy with which they had aided the General Committee in their arrangements.

The PRESIDENT then declared the Annual Meeting closed.



The Local Museum.

The Local Museum was unusually large and well arranged, containing a very great variety of objects of general and local interest, among which were :

A collection of birds and animals from the neighbourhood ; Greensand fossils from Blackdown, some of great rarity ; a molar of *Elephas primigenius*, and some hatchets, both of the bronze and later flint periods, found in the parish of Nyncehead ; two curious very old keys in bronze, found at the same place ; some Roman coins found at Nyncehead ; stained glass from Ayshford Chapel, Nyncehead Church, and other places in the neighbourhood ; the foundation deed of Ayshford Chapel ; some mesozoic fossils from the Greenough river, West Australia, which have since formed the subject of an important paper by Mr. C. Moore, read before the British Association.—MR. WM. A. SANFORD.

Remains of rhinoceros, cave lion, hyena, elk, deer, wolf, bear, ox, &c., with flint knives and spear-heads, and fragments of calcined bone from the hyena cave at Wookey Hole.—MR. H. CATT and MR. W. B. DAWKINS.

A large and beautiful collection of Oolite fossils.—MR. C. MOORE.

A varied collection of Mexican, Persian, and Spanish antiquities, &c.—MR. E. B. TYLOR.

A large and curious collection of antiquities, of various character.—MR. CLARKE, of Tremlett House.

Upper Oolite and Greensand fossils.—MR. S. FOX.

A small and very ordinary looking sword was exhibited by MISS MARY BRIDGE, of Old Court, Wellington, with which the following legend has been handed down in the family. "After the defeat of the Duke of Monmouth at Sedgemoor by the Royal troops, one of the King's officers quartered himself on the Bridge family at Weston Zoyland, whose estate lay contiguous to the field of battle, and on entering the parlour where the ladies of the house were assembled, made use of very ungentlemanly language and ultimately attempted to insult Mrs. Bridge, upon which her daughter Mary, a girl between eleven and twelve years of age, drew the officer's sword from its scabbard and stabbed him to the heart. She was taken and tried for her life by court-martial before Colonel Kirke, and honourably acquitted. The Colonel ordered the sword to be given to her, and requested that it should be handed down through the Maries of her family, and through them it has descended to its present owner.

A number of old black-letter books and some curious manuscripts of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries were exhibited by various persons.

Conversazione Meetings.

1862-3.

1862, *December 8th.*

On Monumental Memorials as adapted to modern
use, by the Rev. H. G. Tompkins.

On Ancient News Letters, by the Rev. W. A.
Jones.

1863, *January 5th.*

On Goethe's "Faust," by the Rev. W. R. Clark.

On Saxon and Norman Architecture as illustrated
by the Church of Milborne Port, by the Rev.
F. Warre.

,, *February 2nd.*

On the Poet Chaucer, by J. H. B. Pinchard, Esq.
Historical Pictures of Taunton Deane, by the Rev.
W. A. Jones.

The Museum.

The following additions have been made to the Museum since the publication of the last volume.

Natural History Department.

Bones, &c., from the *débris* of the landslip at Weston-super-Mare, by Capt. BEADON.

Fossils, &c., from Lyme Regis, by Dr. METFORD.

A series of chalk fossils from Chard, by NORTHCOTE SPICER, Esq.

Silver ore and crystals from Maraquite mine, America, by RICHARD DYER, Esq.

A series of rock specimens, illustrating the igneous formation of the Quantock Hills, near Over Stowey, by the Rev. W. A. JONES.

Polished specimens of igneous rocks from the Quantock Hills, by Lord TAUNTON.

Fossils from the Brendon Hills and other places, by SPENCER G. PERCEVAL, Esq.

Cabinet of British insects, by J. WOODLAND, Esq.

Coal fossils from Midsomer Norton, by Mr. HILL.

Bones of *Rhinoceros tichorinus*, *Hyena spelæa*, horse, &c., from Wookey Hole Cavern, with descriptive catalogue, by H. CATT and W. BOYD DAWKINS, Esqrs.

Archæological Department.

Ancient silver spoon with the Taunton mint mark, by Mr. R. WEBB.

Bulla of Pope Eugenius IV. and copper medal of the Emperor Augustus, by Lord TALBOT DE MALAHIDE.

A set of Maunday money, by the Rev. T. B. DALLY.

A shilling of Queen Elizabeth, and Queen Anne's four-penny-piece, by Mr. E. JEBOULT.

Portions of ancient British cinerary urn, with bones, &c., found in the neighbourhood of Wiveliscombe; a series of ancient British and Roman remains from High Ham, Pitney, and Curry Rivel, by W. W. MUNCKTON, Esq.

Romano-British pottery (three pieces) found near Norton Fitzwarren; a cannon ball used at the siege of Taunton, by C. N. WELMAN, Esq.

Portions of more than ninety vases of Romano-British pottery collected in the gravel beds worked for ballast on the Watchet Railway, at Norton Fitzwarren, many of the specimens being distorted and cracked, and showing that they were spoiled in the manufacture and thrown away near the spot where they were made, by the Rev. W. A. JONES.

Casts from the Tower of St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton, by the CHURCHWARDENS.

Medal of Frederick the Great found at Rowbarton, by Capt. WINSLOE.

Pottery, &c., from Worle Hill, by Dr. PRING.

A halbert from the Tower of London after the Great Fire, by Dr. METFORD.

On Church Monuments, by C. ROACH SMITH, Esq.

Kent Archæological Mine, part 43, by the AUTHOR.

A Remedy for the Warres, by John Tarlton, date 1642, by A. PAGET, Esq.

A Deed of Exemplification of Recovery of Lands at Bristol, temp. 12 Elizabeth, by W. P. PINCHARD, Esq.

Original manuscript "News Letters," of the date of 1631-2, by Mrs. JARMAN, of Brenley House, Kent.

The West of England Journal, Bristol, 1836, by EDW. BAGEHOT, Esq.

An Epistle to Sir John Pole, 1754.

Wright's Court Hand Restored, by Mr. F. R. CLARKE.

On Wookey Hyæna Cavern, by W. BOYD DAWKINS, Esq.

Numismata Imperatorum, &c., by W. E. SURTEES, Esq.

An Account of South Australia, by the AUTHOR.

Chronological Memoirs of the Revs. Henry, John, and Edward Byam, by EDWARD S. BYAM, Esq.

The Monthly Review (198 vols.), by P. STAFFORD CAREY, Esq.

Photograph of Reredos from St. John's Church, Wellington, now in the Museum, by Miss A. HICKS.

The following Publications have been Received.

Bi-monthly Journal of the Kilkenny and South East of Ireland Archæological Society.

Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester.

Journal of the British Archæological Association.

Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.

Chester Archæological Journal.

Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology.

Reports and Papers of Architectural Societies of the County of York, Diocese of Lincoln, Archdeaconry of

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Northampton, County of Bedford, Diocese of Worcester, and County of Leicester, during the year 1862.

Sussex Archæological Collections, vols. 13 and 14.

Journal of the Royal Dublin Society.

Bulletin de la Société Vaudoise.

Report of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S., 1860.

Papworth's Ordinary of British Armorial, *purchased*.

Palæontographical Society's Journal for 1859 and 1860, *purchased*.

Notes and Queries, *purchased*.

Fac-simile of Domesday Book, for the counties of Somerset, Wilts, and Gloucester, *purchased*.

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Additional Subscriptions are solicited; they will be acknowledged in a future volume.

CORRIGENDA ET ADDENDA.

<i>Page</i>	14	<i>note</i>	§	<i>for</i>	684	<i>read</i>	634.
„	27	„	§	„	H.	„	Ib.
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„	33	<i>note</i>	*	<i>add</i>	Appendix, No. IV.*		
„	35	<i>line</i>	29	<i>for</i>	to answer	<i>read</i>	answer to
„	36	„	31	„	Shelf	„	Sherper
„	„	„	32	„	Dusty	„	Ansty.
„	38	„	30	„	Exaltation	„	Invention
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„	69	„	*	<i>add</i>	14 Edw. II., 6 Edw. III., 17 & 22 Ric. II., &c.		
„	„	„	†	„	Pat. 44 Edw. III., p. 2, m. 7.		
„	94	„	†	<i>for</i>	11(22)	<i>read</i>	5(20).
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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
1861-2, PART II.

PAPERS, ETC.

Canyngton Priory.

BY THE REV. THOMAS HUGO, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.S.L., ETC.,
HONORARY MEMBER.

A LITTLE more than three miles from Bridgwater, on the road from that town through Nether Stowey and Williton to Dunster and Porlock, stands the pleasant village of Canyngton. One first gets a glimpse of the tall and stately tower of its parish Church on surmounting the hill at Wembdon, from whence the eye embraces a wide expanse of cultivated valley, backed by the lofty mass of mountain lime-stone known by the name of Canyngton Park, and bounded on the right by the flat banks of the Parret, and on the left by the green glades of Brymore. As he approaches the village, the traveller finds that the description of Leland, who journeyed over the same road three centuries ago, is still applicable in the main to the scene before him. Canyngton is yet "a praty uplandisch" place; and our modern wayfarer as he enters it "passes,"

as did his predecessor, "over a bygge Brooke that risith not far of by West yn the Hilles, and passinge by Canyngtun renneth into the Haven of Bridgewater, a 2. miles and more by Estimation lower then Bridgewater."* Although, at present, nothing more than a village, the place has an air of having once been of much greater importance. On approaching the Church the eye is immediately attracted by some venerable enclosures, which surround an area of several acres, and unmistakably suggest the ancient tenure of the spot by some religious community. The Church itself, as it now appears, can hardly be said to merit the praise that Leland bestowed upon it, of being "very fair and welle adornyd."† It is a restored specimen of Somersetshire Perpendicular, despoiled of its most interesting features, and is far surpassed by many of the glorious Churches for which the neighbourhood is widely distinguished.

Adjacent to the north wall of the chancel, which is on that side without windows, was a Priory of Benedictine Nuns. Their Church, according to Leland, was "hard adnexid to the Est of the Paroch Church,"‡ with which, however, so far as can be perceived, it had no connexion. Of the Nuns' abode very little is now to be seen, as the vicissitudes which the spot has witnessed have all but obliterated the evidences of its earlier tenants, and that which is still visible has carefully to be sought for among those manifold alterations by which the successive holders, who cared little or nothing for the ancient possessors of the place, have endeavoured to accommodate it to their several requirements. To the fragments which remain,

* Itin. ij., 98.

† Itin. ij., 98.

‡ Itin. ij., 98.

consisting of a part of the basement story, and including two or three small internal doorways, and one which gives access to them from the garden, I shall direct attention at a subsequent page.

It is the history of this ancient House that I offer to the reader, so far as it can now be recovered. Both legend and reliable fact will be found to enter into the narrative, but little difficulty will arise in adjusting their relative claims. As the residence of a conventual body, Canyngton Priory was neither large nor wealthy. But its annals are deeply interesting, and the endeavour to rescue them from the practical oblivion in which their position among the mass of surrounding matter has hitherto availed to bury them, will not be destitute either of pleasure or of profit. I may add that so little has been already done in this direction, that almost the whole of my present contribution to the monastic knowledge of my reader will possess, at least, the charm of novelty.

In the beginning of the reign of K. Stephen, or about the year 1138, Robert de Curci, or Cury, called William, but erroneously, by Collinson, founded the Priory of Canyngton for a community of Benedictine Nuns. The good founder was sewer, or chief butler, to the Empress Maud ; and his name, together with those of Milo, Earl of Hereford, Robert de Oilli, and others, may be noticed among the witnesses to a charter of hers, dated at Oxford, in confirmation, to the monks of S. Martin at Paris, of a donation by Baldwin, Earl of Devon, to that monastery, of the chapel of S. James's, Exeter.* His father, Richard de Curci, held, at the time of the Domesday

* *Lel. Collect.* j. 78. *Dugd. Bar.* j. 451. *Mon. Angl. Ed.* 1682 j. 545, 645.

Survey, Neuham, Secendene and Foxeote, in the county of Oxford.* The credit of the foundation has also been given incorrectly to William de Romara, earl of Lincoln. The heads of the family of Curci were, however, as we shall subsequently see, the constant and ordinary patrons. The House was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, but of the circumstances of the foundation or of the extent of the original endowment no record has been preserved, and the opportunity of supplying the omission is now lost for ever.

Within thirty-five years after its first establishment, a personage is traditionally associated with the community, around whom a romantic interest has ever since revolved. I am aware that the connexion of this individual with the place whose history I am now offering to the reader is purely legendary. But, if I mistake not, he will be glad to possess what has never yet been given to him, the various statements of the ancient chroniclers and others brought together and woven into one consecutive narrative. Nor will he be less interested in the story when he hears that the subject of his study is no less celebrated a person than the lady usually called "Fair Rosamund."

Fair Rosamund—*Rosa Mundi*, the rose of the world—was the second daughter of Walter de Clifford, the son of Richard and grandson of Ponz. Richard is mentioned in the Domesday Survey as holding lands in the counties of Oxford, Gloucester, Wilts, Worcester, and Hereford. Walter de Clifford, by his wife Margaret, had four children, Lucy, first married to Hugh de Say, and subsequently to Bartholomew de Mortimer, Rosamund, Walter, and Richard.† Of Rosamund's early life we have few particulars.

* Domesday, j. 159.

† Dugdale's Baronage, i. 325, 336.

Local tradition affirms that Canyngton was the place of her birth, and that within the walls of its Priory she received such an education as the age afforded. That, as the daughter of a powerful lord, she was entrusted to the care of some religious sisterhood for nurture, both of mind and body, there is no reason to doubt, though the old chroniclers are silent on the subject. The art of embroidery would appear to have been one of her accomplishments, for the venerable Abbey of Buildwas long possessed among its treasures a magnificent cope, which bore witness to the taste and skill of its fair embellisher.* Of her first acquaintance with King Henry, and the mode and place of her introduction to him, no details have been preserved. Probably she was known to him from her earliest years. Nor have we any reason to suppose that, according to some modern versions of the sad story, a broken vow added its shadow to a life whose record is sufficiently gloomy without this additional element of woe. Not a hint of her having been a Nun do the chroniclers give us; and, had such been the fact, full use would have been made of so great an aggravation of her offence. Her royal lover was the most unscrupulous of mankind, and the sin of "spousebreche" was but one of the many enormities for which he was notorious. His affection for Rosamund, however, such as it was, was constant. In order to protect her from the vengeance of his queen he removed her successively to various places of greater or less security. The paraphrast of Robert of Gloucester tells us:—

Boures hadde the Rosamunde about in Englonde,

Which this Kyng for her sake made, ich understonde ;
among which were Bishops' Waltham, Wynch, Fremantel,
and Martelestone. But the most famous of all, and with

* Hearne's Will. Neubr., ij., 754.

which her name is more than with all others associated, was her retreat at Woodstock. It was here that Henry built her a chamber, which Brompton describes as of wondrous architecture, "*operi Dædalino similem*," resembling the work of Dædalus—in other words a labyrinth or maze. A manuscript of Robert of Gloucester, in the Heralds' Office, says that

Att Wodestoke for hure he made a toure

That is called Rosemounde's boure,

the special intent of which was to conceal her from her royal rival. The internal decorations of this abode were as much attended to as its means of escaping external notice. The Abbat of Joreval describes a cabinet (and not, surely, as some have thought, the coffin in which the lady was afterwards buried,) of marvellous workmanship, which was one of its ornaments. It was nearly two feet in length, and on it the assault of champions, the action of animals, the flight of birds, and the leaping of fishes were so naturally represented that the figures appeared to move.*

Rosamund did not long occupy the retreat that royal though guilty love had created for her. She died in 1177, while yet without a rival in the king's affections, and, as it would appear, of some natural disease. In after times the injured queen Eleanor had the credit of discovering her place of concealment by means of a clue of silk, incautiously left behind him by the king, which enabled her to thread the intricacies of the path, and thus of gratifying her revenge by obliging her rival to drink from her hand a cup of poison. That the queen discovered the abode of Rosamund is possible, and it may have been that the shock of the meeting and the unmeasured language which

* Brompton, in Script. x. col. 1151. Knighton, in Script. x. col. 2395. Polyd. Vergil, Angl. Hist. Lib. xij. fol., Bas. 1570, p. 241

her majesty is said to have employed were too much for the poor victim of her womanly and natural displeasure. It is only fair, however, to say that the queen's part in the entire transaction is not alluded to by the older writers, and is probably a fiction of more modern times. The fruits of the intercourse were two sons, William Longspe, afterwards created Earl of Sarum, the firm adherent of his brother, King John, against the barons; and Geoffrey, successively Bishop of Lincoln and Archbishop of York.

Rosamund was buried in the first instance before the high altar in the Church of Godstow Nunnery, which was probably selected from its neighbourhood to Woodstock, and which henceforward enjoyed a goodly number of benefactions in memory of her and for the health of her soul. The corpse was wrapped in leather and then placed in a coffin of lead. Over the whole Henry built a magnificent tomb, which was covered with a pall of silk, and surrounded by tapers constantly burning. This occurred in the lifetime of her father, for he gave to the nuns of Godstow, in pure and perpetual alms, for the health of the souls of Margaret his wife and of Rosamund his daughter, his mill at Franton with all appurtenances, a meadow adjacent to the same called Lechtun, and a salt-pit in Wiche. Walter his son confirmed the gift. Osbert Fitzhugh added to this the grant of a salt-pit in Wiche, called the Cow, pertaining to his manor of Wichebalt.* Indeed Walsingham goes so far as to say, though incorrectly, that the Nunnery of Godstow was actually founded by King John for the soul of Rosamund.† It is not unlikely that a chantry was endowed by that King for the

* Monast. Angl. iv., p. 366. Dugd. Bar. j. 335, 336.

† Wals. Ypodigma Neustriæ, fol. Lond. 1574, p. 56, sub an. 1216.

object stated, but the foundation of the House itself was beyond question the work of a much earlier period.

Her remains, however, were not long allowed to occupy their sepulchre in peace. Fourteen years after their solemn commission to this sacred place of interment, S. Hugh, bishop of Lincoln, in a visitation of his Diocese, came to Godstow. After he had entered the Church and performed his devotions, he observed the tomb occupying its conspicuous position before the high altar, adorned as already described, and forthwith asked whose it was. On being informed that it was the grave of Rosamund, whom Henry the late king had so dearly loved, and for whose sake he had greatly enriched this hitherto small and indigent House, and had given land for the sustentation of the tomb and the maintenance of the lights, he imperatively commanded the nuns to take her out of the Church, and to bury her with other common people, as the connexion between her and the King had been base and adulterous; and to the end that the Christian Religion might not be vilified, but that other women might thus be deterred from similar evil ways.*

In obedience to the Bishop's mandate the tomb was removed from the Church and erected in the chapter-house. It bore the following epitaph, containing the obvious play upon the lady's name and declaratory of the unhappy contrast which death had effected:—

Hic jacet in tumba Rosa mundi, non Rosa munda;
Non redolet, sed olet, quae redolere solet.

This tomb remained, an object of much interest and respect, until the dissolution of the House. It was then destroyed, and a stone was discovered with it bearing the

* Higden, Polychron. sub Hen. ij. Rog. Hoveden, fol. 405 b. Brompton, in Script. x. col. 1235. Iceland, Coll. j. 291. Fabyan, sub Hen. ij., &c.

simple inscription "TUMBA ROSAMUNDÆ." The bones were found undecayed, and on the opening of the leaden coffin which contained them, says Leland, "there was a very swete smell came out of it."* Another eye-witness describes it as having "enterchangeable weavings drawn out and decked with roses red and green, and the picture of the Cup, out of which she drank the poyson given her by the Queen, carved in stone."† A coffin, of the same material, said to be that of Rosamund, was still to be seen at Godstow when Hearne wrote his "Account of some Antiquities in and about Oxford," but was regarded by him as a "Fiction of the Vulgar."

I hardly need add that the history of the unhappy lady, of whom the reader now possesses all that can be gathered from olden sources, and more perhaps than can be accepted as true, was a favourite subject of mediæval romance, and that all kinds of embellishments were imported into the tale in order to impress a salutary caution against any imitation of the heroine. One example must suffice. In "Dives and Pauper," a tract printed by Richard Pynson in 1493, the King is represented as determined to inspect the corpse of his deceased mistress. "Whanne the grave was openned," says the narrator, "there sate on orrible tode upon hir breste * * * * and a foule adder begirt hir body aboute in the middle." And the accompaniments were altogether of so disagreeable a kind "that the King ne none other might stande to see that orryble sight. Then the King did shut again the grave, and did write *Hic jacet, &c.*," the epitaph with which the reader is already acquainted. How corrupting soever may have been the evil example of Rosamund during her life, she was thus

* *Lel. frag.*, in *bibl. Cott. Dugd. Mon.* iv. 365.

† *Mr. Thomas Allen*, in *Hearne's Will. Neubrige*, ij. 739.

made a beacon and a solemn warning for long ages after she had left the world. And yet, with the hopeful and charitable spirit in behalf of those who had repented of error and had been reconciled to good, which was so truly characteristic of mediæval times, though the sin was denounced the sinner was restored to love. Rosamund's example and Rosamund's prayers were equally, though in opposite ways, regarded as imparting a blessing. Down even to the reign of Henry VIII. the traveller, as he passed over Godstow bridge, could read on a cross the inscription that told him that, as others had prayed for Rosamund, Rosamund was ready to pray for him :—

Qui meat hac oret signum salutis adoret,
Vtque sibi detur veniam Rosamunda precetur.*

Good traveller who shall pass this way,
And at this cross shall kneel and pray,
Thy suitor Rosamund shall be,
And pardon shall implore for thee.

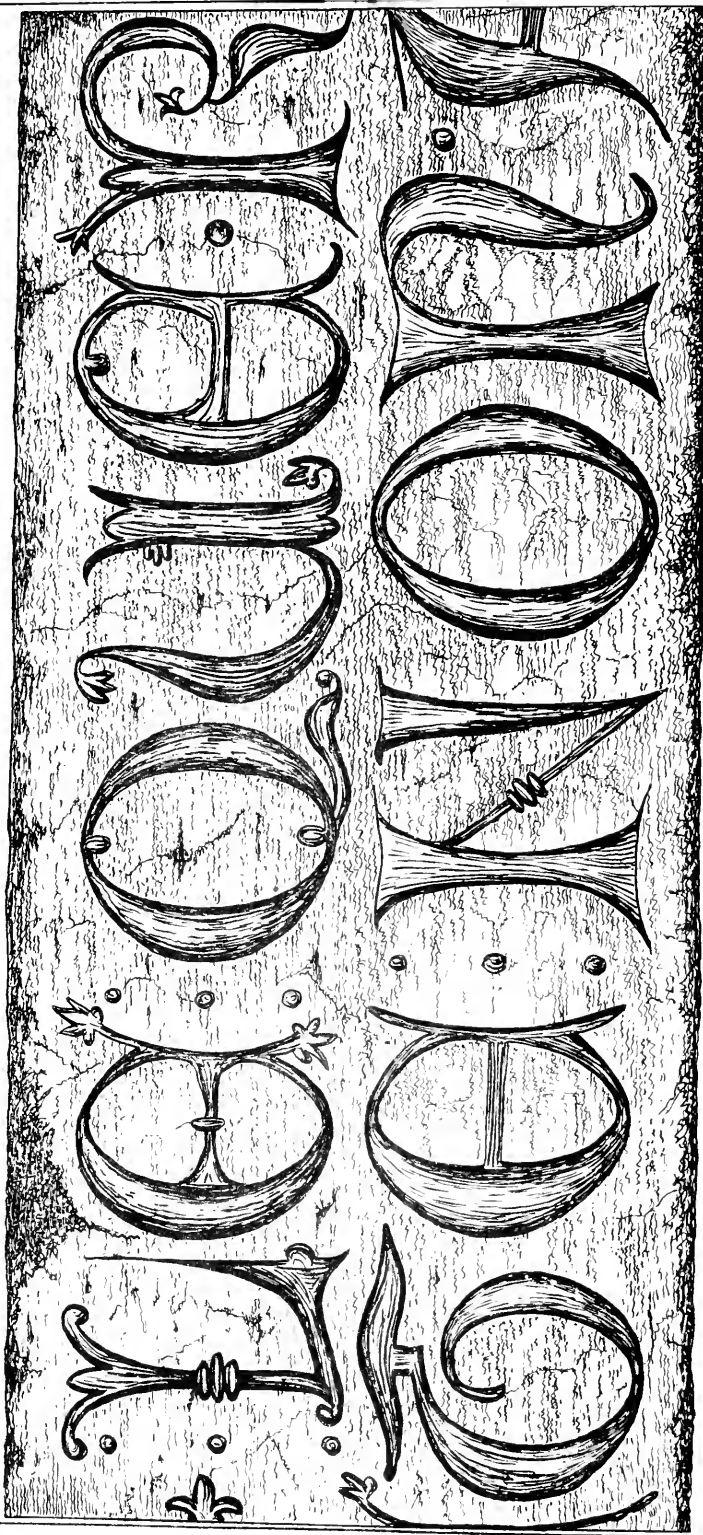
We now arrive at another fact which exhibits the House in a very interesting light. Hugh Wallis, Archdeacon of Wells, and subsequently Bishop of Lincoln, who was consecrated on the 20th of December, 1209, and died on the 7th of February, 1234-5, by his will, dated the Feast of S. Brice, the 13th of November, in the third year of his pontificate, left five mares to the House of Caninton.† This may be taken as an evidence of the good will of an observant ruler and zealous disciplinarian, and, as such, of the unsullied name and fame of the community thus distinguished.

One of the Sisters at this early period was a daughter of the knightly family of De Merriett, of Hestercombe. A most interesting memorial of this lady is still to be seen in

* *Lel. Itin.* ij., p. 137. *Dugd. Mon.* iv., 365.

† *MS. Harl.*, 6968, pp. 19, 20.

(Actual size.)



From an Inscribed Slab in memory of Maud de Merriete, Nun of Canyngton;

In the Church of Combe Flory, Somerset.

The. Frigo del. & lith. 1863.

the church of Combe Florey. It is an inscribed slab, of early 13th-century work, inserted in the wall of the north aisle, and marks the spot where was deposited the heart of Dame Maud de Merriete, a nun of Cannynctune. The legend runs :—

✠: IC: REX: DAME: MAUD DE: MERRIE
 CLE: DDPAPE: DE: CANNYNCTUNE:

The Lombardic letters are of first-rate excellence, and I have endeavoured to give the reader some faint idea of their beauty in the accompanying illustration. (*See the Figure.*) The act to which the inscription refers was exemplified only in the case of a few persons of superior rank and consequence; and, although the Sisterhoods of that day included an abundant proportion of such, a similar instance is of the greatest rarity. Nor did the Church ever look kindly upon a practice which necessarily involved a violation of that body which had been the recipient of the Sacraments, and was consigned to the grave in sure and certain hope of a future resurrection. It would appear, however, that the members of the lady's family were more than ordinarily in favour of it, for, singularly enough, I have found in Bishop John de Drokenesford's Register the discharge of a sentence of excommunication passed on Sir John de Meriet for the removal of the heart from the corpse of his deceased wife, when a penance was enjoined for the same, by order of Berengarius, Bishop of Tusculum, the Pope's penitentiary, and it was further directed that the heart should be interred with the body from which it had been taken. The absolution was dated at Woky, the 28th of March, 1314.*

* Reg. Drok., f. lxvij. b. Appendix, No. 1.

In the account of Fees holden either immediately from the King, or from others who so held them, called the Testa de Nevill, and apparently compiled from inquests taken about the year 1270, the Nuns of Kaninton are returned as holding at that place three acres of arable land, and three acres of meadow, of the annual value of two shillings.*

The Taxatio of Pope Nicholas IV. furnishes us with no valuation of any of the possessions of the House. That record, as my readers will remember, was compiled between the years 1288 and 1292, for the purpose of determining the value of all ecclesiastical property, the tenth of which was granted by the Pope to King Edward I. towards providing the means of a crusade. The Church of Pudelton in Dorsetshire, however, is entered as paying to the Prioress a portion, of the annual value of thirteen shillings and fourpence, whereof the required tenth was one shilling and fourpence.† The omission of their appropriated Church of Canyngton is the more unaccountable, as there is no reason to doubt either that it existed, or that the Sisters were in possession of it when the Taxation was made. It was probably a part of the original endowment of their House.

It would seem that shortly after this date some circumstances of an unpleasant nature, but of which no record is extant, occurred in the cemetery of the Convent. For on the 11th of September, 1311, Bishop John de Drokenesford issued from Grenewyc a commission to John, Bishop of Cork, on account of his necessary absence in parliament and consequent inability of celebrating Orders in his Cathedral Church on the Saturday next after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which in that

* Test. de Nev. p. 173.

† P. Nich. Tax. p. 179. Hutchin's Dorset. Ed. 2. ij. p. 207.

year was coincident with the 18th of September, empowering him to officiate in his stead, and, among other episcopal acts, to "reconcile the cemetery of the poor Nuns of Kenynton."* This ceremony of reconciliation was the re-consecration of a sacred place after it had been polluted either by effusion of blood or by heretical possession.

We now arrive at the first of a series of similar examples which the History of Canyngton Priory will be found to afford, illustrative of the regard in which it and its sister establishments were ordinarily held in mediæval times. It was there that security and purity were acknowledged inmates; and, in proof of this, a temporary asylum was constantly found in such Houses for women whose natural protectors were either removed by death or necessarily absent in their country's service. This exhibits a very interesting feature in the social state of these Communities, to which at present I can only thus briefly allude. The Bishop wrote to the Prioress and Sisters, conveying his permission to them to receive Dame Dyonisia Peverel, to live in their House at her own proper cost, and as long as his will and pleasure should allow. The letter was dated at Kyngesbiri, on the 25th of March, 1313.†

Henry is the first vicar of Canyngton of whom we have any account. A commission was issued by Bishop John de Drokenesford to John de Godelegh, Dean of Wells, Antony de Bradeneye, Canon, and William de Edyngton, Rector of Baudrip, to investigate certain charges against him, especially in a cause matrimonial between Sibilla daughter of Petronilla de Assche and Laurence atte

* Reg. Drok. f. xxxvij.

† Reg. Drok. f. cxlixb. Appendix, No. II.

Graung. The commission was dated at Waleworth, the 2nd of April, 1313.*

In the following year the Prioress and Sisters exercised their ordinary right as patrons of the vicarage of Canyngton. They presented William de Trent, chaplain, to that benefice on the 18th of July, 1314.†

Before the end of the year the Sisters received a further accession of visitors. On the 27th of December the Bishop addressed to them from Wollauinton a complimentary letter, informing them that, in compliance with the entreaty of some friends who were spending that holy festival with him, he had given them permission to receive the wife and two sisters of John Ffychet, of whose good and honest conversation he was informed, for sojourn in their House during the absence of the said John in foreign parts, or as much of that interval as should be agreeable to them. The ladies were to live at their own proper cost, and their presence was not to attract other strangers, to the burden of the House or suspicion of scandal.‡

This was shortly afterwards followed by a similar permission in favour of Isabel Barayl, with the same injunctions appended. The lady was doubtless a relative of one of the Sisters, as we shall presently meet with an Agnes Baril among that body. The Bishop's letter was dated at La Place, the 18th of February, 1314-15.||

Pursuant to a writ tested at Clypston, the 5th of March, 1315-16, the ninth year of K. Edward II., the Prioress was certified as holding the township of Canyngton, in the county of Somerset.§

* Reg. Drok. f. cxxxviiijb.

† Reg. Drok. f. lxxj. MS. Harl. 6964, p. 19.

‡ Reg. Drok. f. lxxiiijb. Appendix, No. III.

|| Reg. Drok., f. lxxiiiijb.

§ Parl. Writs, p. II., pp. 379, 684.

Early in the following year, 1317, Emma de Bytelescumb (incorrectly named Gytelescumb by Dr. Archer and others), the first Prioress whose name has been preserved, resigned her office. The government of the House would seem to have been a matter of considerable difficulty, and in the election of a successor to the vacant dignity the Bishop was obliged unpleasantly to interfere. The process which ensued was a long one, and the reader will arrive at a correct notion of the caution and particularity which were exercised on these occasions by carefully attending to the following details.

In the first place a commission was issued to Thomas de Dylinton, precentor, and Antony de Bradeney, Canon of Wells, empowering them, as the Bishop himself was hindered by the pressure of important business from being present in person, as he had hoped, on the Tuesday next after the feast of S. Mark, the 26th of April, in the prebendal church of Wyvelescombe, to examine and proceed against certain delinquents and certain misbehaving Sisters in the said Priory, and also to prorogue the matter affecting the same to the next juridical day after the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, in the aforesaid church, before himself or his Commissaries. The commission was dated at Blakeford, the 24th of April, 1317.*

In obedience to this mandate, on Wednesday, the morrow of the Invention of the Holy Cross, the 4th of May, Agnes de Neumarch (or Newmarket, as she is afterwards called "de novo Mercato,") and Sibilla de Horsy, Sisters of the House, appeared personally before the Lord Bishop, their Ordinary; and the former, on her own part and that of her Sisters, presented Dame Matilda de Morton, also personally

* Reg. Drok., f. ciiijb.

appearing, as elected to the office of Prioress. On her being questioned whether all things had been done in the said election according to law, it was found that the presentation was without the necessary authority. The act was accordingly pronounced invalid, but at the Sisters' urgent entreaty and the request of Robert Fitzpagan, the patron, also present, another day was graciously assigned. This was the Tuesday next after the feast of S. John before the Latin Gate, or the 10th of May, when it was ordered that the parties should appear before the Bishop or his Commissaries, and the defects of the former election should be supplied. On the aforesaid day Matilda de Morton appeared before the Bishop's Commissaries, together with her Sisters Agnes de Newmarket and Amabilia Trevet, when Agnes exhibited their procuratory from their Sisters and a written declaration, by which it appeared that Agnes and Amabilia were empowered, conjointly and separately, to petition, in their own name and that of the Convent, that the previous election should be confirmed. After the exhibition and reading thereof, they further by Gilbert de Schepton, clerk, verbally declared that the election had taken place subsequently to the usual religious solemnities, and that it was irrevocable; and, in conclusion, exhibited the decree, as it appeared, of the aforesaid election, which had been proceeded with only after the Bishop's acceptance of the resignation of the previous Prioress and the permission of the patron to elect a successor. As, after question, they replied that they had nothing further to propose, this concluded their case. The Commissaries thereupon gave notice to all objectors to declare the reasons of their opposition, and appointed for the hearing of such the Tuesday next after the feast of the Holy Trinity, the 31st of May, in the aforesaid monastery.

Previous to the hearing a new commission was issued by the Bishop to Henry de Schanyngton, Archdeacon of Tanton, Thomas de Dylington, Precentor, Antony de Bradeneye and William de Lanton, Canons of Wells, and Richard de Fford, Doctor of Laws, to examine the election of the aforesaid Matilda, on the day aforesaid, in the Chapter-house of the aforesaid Monastery, to make a scrutiny of the votes secretly and one by one, to hear any who desired to offer objections against the election or the persons of the elect or electors, to send him on the Thursday following a faithful account of their proceedings, under the seals of four, or at least three, of them, and to assign to the elect and the others whom it concerned the Thursday next before the feast of S. Barnabas the Apostle, the 9th of June, for another meeting in the parish Church of Canyngton, then and there to proceed in the matter of the said election before the Bishop or his Commissaries. This was dated at Wyvelescomb, the 28th of May.* On the 31st of May, Matilda and her Sisters aforesaid being present, after the reading of the commission, the opponents were cited to appear and offer their objections, according to law. Upon this Johanna de Bratton, a Nun of the Priory professed, exhibited in writing a petition against the election and the person of the elect. The Commissaries, having given her the aid of counsel in accordance with her request, proceeded to investigate the several objections, which the record unfortunately does not particularise, and called before them and examined several of the Sisters one by one in proof of their validity. After enquiring whether any further objection remained, and furnishing the opposite side with a copy of them as delivered by the objectors,

* Reg. Drok. f. cvjb.

the Commissaries summoned both parties, in agreement with the terms of their commission, to meet in the parish Church of Canyngton on the Thursday next before the feast of S. Barnabas, the 9th of June. On that day, both parties being again present, after the reading of the commission and a long disputation, on oath of the objectors that they believed their objections to be true and capable of proof, these brought thereto the following Sisters as witnesses who were forthwith admitted to give evidence; namely, Margery de Wythel, Johanna de Ber, Eugenia Durdent, Alice de Scolond, Alice de Hydon, Johanna de Scolond and Agnes Baril. The Commissaries were further solicited to subpœna a number of other witnesses, Walter de Lof, William de Kingeston, John de Sattesden and others; and copies of the commission and other documents were given to Matilda, at the request of her and her party. The business was again deferred to the Friday next after the feast of SS. Vitus and Modestus, the 17th of June, when both parties were ordered to appear before the Commissaries, personally, or by their proctors, in the parish Church of Langeport. Before that day another commission was issued, bearing date at Kyngesbury, the 16th of June, and continuing to the same Commissaries the powers previously conferred.* At the meeting on the day following, Johanna appointed John Noreys, as her proctor, and Matilda was represented by Hugh de Whythurst, clerk. With the other Commissaries were present Henry de Schaninton, Archdeacon of Tanton, and Thomas de Dilington, Precentor of Wells, who, it will be remembered, had been named in the two previous commissions, but had hitherto been absent. The commission and previous proceedings having been read, together with a certificate from the

* Reg. Drok. f. 8b.

Dean of Brugewater, that the witnesses before alluded to had been subpœnaed and were ready to give true evidence, these persons were examined under oath, and their answers written down in full. That day and the Saturday following were occupied in these proceedings. At length, having thus exhausted all possible means of arriving at the truth, and being desirous of providing for the safety of the Sisters, by concluding a vacancy which was naturally productive of so many dangers, the Commissaries proceeded to the final pronounciation of their sentence. It was that, inasmuch as, after a long and careful hearing and examination of the merits of the case, they found the election of the said Matilda, elected through the resignation of Dame Emma de Byteleseumb, the late Prioress, to be uncanonical, and notoriously both in form and matter and in the person of the elect faulty, they, invoking the power of the Holy Ghost, and aided by the counsel of assessors learned in the law, pronounced finally and definitively the election of the said Matilda, who was unfit and unworthy, to be none, frivolous, of no effect, and altogether without force. Further, that the Nuns of the aforesaid Monastery by their choice of an unworthy Superior had lost for that turn their power of election, and that the appointment of the future Prioress had accordingly devolved on the Bishop or his Commissaries. In order, however, that the House might no longer be destitute of the comfort of a Governor, and lest the Nuns in disgrace of their religion should become the victims of the rapacity of the evil one and his servants, and of the natural frailty of their sex, in the name of God and by the authority committed to them, they selected Dame Johanna de Bere, of that Monastery, a Nun professed, of lawful age, born of lawful wedlock, knowing and able to defend its rights and

possessions, of known circumspection both in temporal and spiritual affairs, and in respect of whom no objection could be taken against her elevation to the vacant office, and her competent performance of its duties ; and they appointed her to be Prioress, and canonically instituted her as such by those presents with all her rights and appurtenances in the aforesaid Monastery ; and ordered her to be inducted into corporal possession of the Office and House aforesaid, and to be defended after such induction.*

Such was the aspect of the case on the 18th of June, 1317. The reader will hardly be prepared to learn that, after so long and minute an investigation, and so formal and solemn a decision, another commission was issued in the following month, the effect of which was entirely to reverse the previous arrangement. The commission was dated at Blakeford, on the 12th of July, and was addressed to Henry de Schanynton, Archdeacon of Tanton, and William de Lanton, Canon of Wells ; and the matter ordered for their examination was an alleged infringement of the Bishop's jurisdiction and contempt of his office, for which offences correction and punishment were demanded.† What answer the Commissaries returned does not appear, but a few weeks afterwards a commission was addressed to John de Godelee, Dean of Wells, and Master Henry de Pencery, to admit, receive, and accept the renunciation of Dame Matilda, a Nun of the House, lately elected Prioress, in respect of all the appeals and judicial processes con-

* Reg. Drok. ff. 7, 7b, 8, 8b. Abstract in MSS. Harl. 6964, pp. 1, 54. 6985 B. f. 124.

The reader will perceive from the references that the folios in the Register do not retain their original and chronological order. This was the fault of some ancient binder, but is not of material importance, as the date appended to each instrument, enables us to determine the exact sequence.

† Reg. Drok. f. cvj.

needed with the previous election, and the resignation of all rights appertaining to her by virtue thereof, and also the resignation of Dame Johanna de Ber, canonically appointed by the Bishop to the office of Prioress by the right of election which had devolved to him, with that of all rights appertaining to her by virtue of that appointment; together with the plenary submission of the aforesaid resigning Nuns, and of all the other Sisters of the aforesaid House. The Commissaries were further empowered to select according to their discretion some competent Sister of the House for the future Prioress. Their commission was sealed and dated at Rokeburn, on the 18th of the Kalends of September, or the 15th of August, 1317.* The Commissaries took the most prudent and probably the most just course of procedure, and selected the lady whom their predecessors had rejected. Peace was hereupon re-established, and so little did the contest affect the good feeling of the contending parties, that, on the occurrence of a subsequent vacancy, we shall find one of the foremost opponents of Johanna de Bere arrayed on her side and promoting her election.

One of her main supporters on the present occasion was, as it would appear, connected with several ecclesiastics of the diocese. William de Bratton was Rector of Thorne Fagon, and received a dispensation of absence to study, on the 17th of September, 1311;† and Robert de Bratton obtained licence in behalf of a private oratory, on the 3rd of June, 1317.‡

It not unfrequently happened that during the wars of England with other countries, the incumbents of alien

* Reg. Drok. f. clb. Abstract in MSS. Harl. 6964, pp. 1, 54. 6985 B. f. 124.

† Reg. Drok. f. xxxvib.

‡ Reg. Drok. f. cvb.

benefices, the patronage of which belonged to foreign Monasteries, were deprived of a part or the whole of their revenues. John Ffromund, Vicar of Stokecursy, and Roger Ffromund, Rector of Holeford, were labouring at this time under such an infliction. By a brief, dated at Westminster, the 4th of March, 1324-5, the eighteenth year of Edward II., the King committed to William, Vicar of Canyngton, the custody of the goods ecclesiastical of these two incumbents during the continuation of the war between England and France.*

The next fact again takes us within the precincts of the House. On the 16th of April, 1326, licence at the Bishop's pleasure was granted to Brother Robert de Tanton, one of the Friars Minors of Bruggwater, to hear the confessions of the Prioress and Nuns of Canyngton, and to impose penances and grant absolutions even in cases reserved to the Bishop himself. The licence was dated at Blakeford, on the day above mentioned.†

This was the last act that, so far as I can find, was performed in the convent's behalf by the good Bishop John de Drokenesford. He died at Dogmersfeld, on the 9th of May, 1329.

His successor, Ralph of Shrewsbury, whose episcopal reign began on the 2nd of September, 1329, wrote in French to the Prioress and Sisters, "*a nos trescheres filles en Dieu Priouresse et Couent de Kanyngton, oue la beneissoun Dieu et la nostre saluz,*" requiring them to admit Alice, daughter of John de Northlode, as a Nun of their House. He claimed to do this by virtue of his late election, and after the custom of his predecessors. The letter was written from London, on

* Reg. Drok. f. cccxvjb.

† Reg. Drok. f. ccclixb.

the 20th of January, 1329-30.* A similar missive, dated at Dogmersfeld, on the 1st of the following March, was sent to the Prioress and Nuns of Barwe, who were commanded to receive into their sisterhood Elizabeth, the daughter of Hamon le Fitz Richard, Knt. And it was added that the Bishop acted in both of these requests at the instance of his dearest friend the Prior of Bath.† It would appear, however, that the Sisters did not feel themselves under much obligation to their neighbour at Bath, for after waiting a considerable time the Bishop had to refresh their memories on the subject of his former letter, and to insist upon an immediate conformity with its request, in virtue of their canonical obedience. This mandate was sent from Woky in the beginning of July, as the next entry is dated at the same place on the 9th of that month, 1333.‡

The circumstance to which we have now arrived is one very characteristic of the times in which it occurred. On the 20th of September, 1332, at Westminster, a writ was addressed to Henry le Gilden, the eschaetor, to find whether the King might without damage to himself or others grant licence to Robert Ffutz Payn to give twenty-four acres of land with appurtenances in Canyngton and Radeweye, held by the said Robert of the King in chief, to the Prioress and Nuns of Canyngton and their successors, in aid of the maintenance of a Chaplain, who should celebrate Divine Service every day in the Church of Canyngton for the soul of the said Robert, and those of his ancestors and heirs, and of all the faithful departed. The jury

* Reg. Rad. f. xij. MS. Harl. 6965. p. 20.

† Reg. Rad. ff. xixb, xx.

‡ Rad. Reg. f. lxxxij (1.).

met at Somerton, on Thursday, the morrow of S. Martin, in the sixth year of Edward III., or the 12th of November, 1332. Most of the jurors' names are illegible, but those of William Chaundos, William Cordulkent, Hugh Brun, and John Stenyngg can yet be deciphered. They returned a verdict that no damage would result from such licence being accorded, and that there was no mesne lord between the King and the aforesaid Robert.* The licence with the ordinary reservations was granted accordingly, by writ of privy seal, on the payment by the said Robert of a fine of forty shillings, and is dated, witness the King, at York, the 28th of January, 1332-3.†

The government of the House had again become too onerous for the shoulders on which it had been placed. After a conventual reign of nearly seventeen years Matilda de Morton resigned her office, and on the 12th of January, 1333-4, the Bishop granted to the Sub-prioress and convent his licence for the election of of a successor.‡ The choice fell on Willelma de Blachyngdon.

This lady did not long retain possession of her dignity. She died on the 4th of May, 1336. And here the Bishop's Register gives us in detail the particulars of the ensuing appointment, which will doubtless be of considerable interest to the students of monastic chronicles. Indeed it is only by the possession of these series of minute events and the consequent completeness of details that we can at all be said to understand the system of which they formed a part, or can in imagina-

* Inq. p. m. 6 Edw. iij. 2 nos. n. 94. Appendix, No. III.

† Pat. 7 Edw. iij. p. 1. m. 28.

‡ Reg. Rad. f. lxxxixb. MS. Harl. 6965. p. 77.

tion enter into the sacred precincts wherein they were transacted, or throw ourselves into the picturesque life of those olden days and estimate them as they deserve. Johanna de Bractone, Sub-prioress, evidently the same Sister (with a slight difference in the orthography of her name, which will be easily understood by those who are conversant with the manuscripts of this period) who had headed the opposition to Matilda de Morton nearly twenty years before, wrote to the Bishop informing him that Willelma de Blachyngdon had died on the day above mentioned, and, after the customary expression of obedience, proceeded to give him the particulars of the election of her successor. After the burial of the deceased Prioress, and the petition for and reception of the licence to elect from Robert Ffitzpayn, the patron, the Sisterhood met in their Chapter-house on the 16th of May, and appointed the day following for the election. On that day they again met, and, "*lecto et exposito capitulo*," appointed Lucy de Raleghe, Sister of the House, as their procurator. All under ecclesiastical suspension or interdict were then ordered by this Sister to depart, and three Sisters were selected, Johanna de Beare, Christina Robe and Alice de Holtham, as scrutators to take the votes, enter them in writing, and afterwards publish them. These retired to a corner of the Chapter-house, took the votes secretly and one by one, and afterwards published them by virtue of their office. Those of Christina Robe, Alice de Holtham, Margaret de Hampton, Avice Reyners, Lucy de Popham, Johanna de Alwynesheye, Matilda de Northelode, Johanna Trimelet, Alice de Northelode, and Agnes de Nywemarch were in favour of Johanna de Beare. Two, Johanna de Bracton, Sub-prioress, and

Johanna de Beare were for Avice Reyners, and Luey de Raleghe was for Johanna de Braeton. Two thirds of the Chapter and more—for the Sisters then amounted, as is evident, to thirteen in number—were thus found to be in favour of Johanna de Beare (who, as the reader will hardly fail to recollect, had been appointed by the Bishop to the office of Prioress in 1317, but had been afterwards commanded to resign her dignity), who was described as provident, discreet, in life and manners altogether commendable, of lawful age, born in lawful wedlock, and circumspect in temporal and spiritual matters. Upon this, Alice de Holtham, by their command and in their presence, solemnly read the election to the assembled Sisterhood. They then sang *Te Deum*, and bore the elect to the high altar according to custom, and by the same Alice de Holtham, to whom they deputed that duty, announced the election to the clergy and a great number of the laity then and there present. Afterwards, about the sixth hour of the same day, the election of the said elect was presented to her by the said Alice, and she was questioned as to her assent. The said Johanna elect replied that she wished to deliberate, and, having been again questioned and repeatedly urged to comply by the said Alice, in the evening of the same day, being unwilling to resist the Divine will, declared her assent. The writer concluded by soliciting the Bishop's assent to and confirmation of their act. The letter was sealed and dated in their Chapter-house of Kanyngton, the 17th of May, 1336.*

Appended to this are copies of several documents connected with the election. The first is William de

* Reg. Rad. ff. cliijb, cliij.

Ludeford the notary's certificate of the proceedings, dated on the same day as the previous letter, and a repetition for the most part of the narrative which it contained. He adds that Agnes de Neumarch was ill and confined to her bed, but that the deputation of Sisters waited on her and received her vote; and that John de Middeltone, rector of Scheptonebeauchamp, and Stephen Tryppe, rector of Westcamel, were present, the former of whom announced the election.* Then follow the appointment by Johanna de Bractone, Subprioress, of Lucy de Raleghe to warn all and singular suspended and incompetent persons against taking part in the election;† that of Johanna de Beare, Christina Robe and Alice de Holtham to act as scrutators, and to take the votes and publish the result;‡ the appointment of Alice de Holtham as their procurator to inform the elect of her election, and to solicit her consent;|| and that of William de Trente, vicar of Kanyngton, and John de Wyuelescombe, as their procurators, to ask and obtain a day to present to the Bishop their nomination and election, and to exhibit and present the same on the day appointed.§ The former instruments were dated on the 17th, and the last on the 18th of May. The Bishop confirmed the election, and committed to the elect the administration of the spirituals and temporals of the convent with all the rights appertaining thereunto, at Wyvelescombe, on the 3rd of the following month of June, 1336.¶ At the same place and time he signified his confirmation to

* Reg. Rad. ff. cliij, cliijb, clv.

† Ib. f. clv.

‡ Ib.

|| Ib.

§ H. f. clvb.

¶ Reg. Rad. f. cliij. MS. Harl. 6965, p. 105.

Robert le Ffitzpain, the patron;* ordered the Archdeacon of Taunton to install, induct, and to put the Prioress in corporal possession;† and wrote to the Sub-prioress and convent to accept the elect, and to pay her due and canonical obedience.‡

In the October of the same year the Bishop granted permission to the Prioress and Convent to receive two ladies, Johanna Wason and Maud Poer, with two maid-servants, to sojourn, by the assent and will of the Sisters, in their Priory of Kanyngton, until the following Easter, provided that such residence should not be detrimental, prejudicial, or depreciatory either to them or their House. The letter was written in French, and addressed to them from Banewelle, on the 14th of October, 1336.||

This was followed on the 4th of November by a similar letter, also addressed to them from Banewell, in favour of Isabella Ffichet, who was permitted to reside together with one maidservant in the Priory until Easter.§

Prioress Johanna de Beare was numbered with her predecessors in 1343. On the 12th of August Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury wrote from Banewelle to Avice de Reigners, who, it will be recollected, was second at the election of the last Prioress, and whom her Sisters had now elected, confirming her in her office, and committing to her the rule and administration of her House.¶ On the same day he forwarded his mandate to the Archdeacon of Tanton, or his official, to install and induct her; and

* Reg. Rad. f. cliijb.

† Reg. Rad. f. cliijb.

‡ Reg. Rad. f. cliijb.

|| Reg. Rad. f. cxlix. As it may interest many of my readers to have a specimen of the French of this period, I have placed the original in the Appendix, No. IV.

§ Reg. Rad. f. cl.

¶ Reg. Rad. f. celxxxij. MS. Harl. 6965, p. 158.

to the Sub-prioress and Convent, informing them that he had confirmed their election, and enjoining obedience to the elect.* As the Archdeacon was unable to perform his duty in person, and promptitude was desirable, the Bishop issued his commission from Banewelle, on the 13th of August, to the Rector of Oterhampton, to induct, install, and put her in corporal possession without further and injurious delay, and to certify him that he had so done.†

A dark cloud was now coming over the House, and soon resulted in a storm the particulars of which I would willingly conceal. As, however, in the annals of other Monasteries I have endeavoured to give my reader as faithful a picture as a conscientious and truthful search among their records have enabled me, so it shall be my aim on the present occasion. The suppression of essential truth is, in my judgment, equivalent to an assertion of falsehood, inasmuch as the reader, who depends on the faithfulness of his author, will be equally misled by both. Nor will the inherent excellencies of the Monastic System, as actively doing its work in the ages now under our review, suffer by this publicity any suspicion of their reality in a judicious and reasonable mind. Human nature is a thing of frailty, and the pretence of absolute perfection, which an ignoring of all wrong affects, is of itself sufficient to induce a question of its truth. That picture is necessarily the most to be depended on which exhibits the dark aspect as well as the fair. And mediæval Monasticism can well afford to have those occasional faults displayed, which are common to it and to all other institutions, when so surpassing were its merits, so refining its influence, and so zealous and well-directed its powers to bless.

* Reg. Rad. f. cclxxxij.

† Reg. Rad. f. cclxxxij.

An intimation was conveyed to the Prioress that the Bishop would officially visit her House on the Friday next after the feast of S. Luke the Evangelist, the 21st of October, 1351. In his mandate he stated that he proposed to visit her in humility and gentleness, and cited her and through her all her Sisters to present themselves before him or his Commissaries in their Chapter-house, on the day aforesaid, there to receive his visitation with humility, and to accept from him or them that which should be lawful and consonant to reason. They were also to furnish him or his Commissaries with a certificate respecting the matters of presentment, together with their names in a paper annexed thereto, distinctly and clearly written, and under their common seal. The letter was dated at Banewell, the 8th of October.*

On the day appointed for the visitation the inquiry took place before John de Sydenhale and Nicholas Pontefract, the Bishop's Commissaries. In the official report inserted in the Register it is set forth that there were various matters discovered as transacted in and connected with the House which called for correction and amendment. Two of the Nuns, Matilda Pulham and Alice Northlode, the latter of whom has been already mentioned as voting in the election of the Prioress, were known, to the violation of their monastic vow and the shame of their sex, to keep company with, and too frequently to admit, sundry suspected women, and were also much too intimate with the Chaplains, Richard Sompnor and Hugh Willyng, with whom they held by night long and suspicious conversations, and by consequence, as was suspected by many, fell into worse evils. Further, that, not content with these improprieties, the

* Reg. Rad. ff. ccclxxxiiij b, ccclxxxiiij. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 241.

said Matilda was in the habit of tempting many of the servitors to incontinence; and that the said Alice had, in many places secret and fit for the evil purpose and at hours convenient, been guilty of incontinence with the said Richard Sompnor. That when charged by the Prioress with that and other irregularities, the said Alice refused even once to say "*mea culpa*." That the said Matilda had unadvisedly and immodestly revealed the secrets of the Chapter to various lay persons in the neighbourhood. That the same "*virago*," in reply to the Prioress and Sisters detesting and inveighing against her for her shameless conduct, had threatened to work them some grievous harm with knives and other weapons. That both of them were sunk in the depths of malice, and made light of the canonical obedience which they owed to the Prioress, and by their sensuality brought disgrace upon their vow and a scandal on their House. On proof of all this it was ordered that Matilda should sit last, and Alice last but one, in choir and refectory during the celebration of the Office and in refectations, that they should keep the cloister for a whole year, and on no account go forth from it, and that all and singular the men suspected of the said Monastery should be dismissed and sent away.

The Commissaries then turned their attention to the case of another Sister. They discovered that a Nun, Johanna Trimelet, whose name also has been already before us, had been frequently guilty of incontinence, and had given birth to a child, to the grave disgrace and confusion of her vow. Although the crime was so foul and scandalous, the Commissaries professed themselves unwilling to cloak or conceal it. They therefore ordained, and in virtue of her obedience enjoined that the said Johanna should remain for a whole year imprisoned in one house

within the precinct of the Monastery ; that, with a view of repressing her youthful ardours, “suos calores macerans juveniles,” she should fast on bread and water on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, and that on all other days during the time aforesaid she should have for her maintenance bread, pottage, and ale only. The judges were not men by whom even smaller breaches of discipline were disregarded. They therefore commanded that all and singular the Nuns of the Monastery aforesaid should daily be bound to assemble for refection in the common refectory, and that the Prioress should by no means absent herself from the repast, unless for some reasonable cause, for the truth of which they charged her conscience before God. This lady herself did not escape judgment. It was discovered in the course of the visitation as a thing notorious, and the Commissaries recorded the fact with grief, that the Prioress had admitted four women as Sisters of the House, for each of whom she had received twenty pounds, thus falling into simoniacal depravity which is the worst of crimes ; that she had also sold a number of corrodies in the House without the Bishop’s licence obtained or solicited ; and this, without any advantage to the Sisters, but to the burdening of their House with a debt of more than £18 sterling. That the Sisters were in many ways illtreated by the stubborn and disobedient servants of the Prioress, and could gain no redress, although they earnestly and humbly besought her for it. The Commissaries felt themselves unable to palliate or pass over these matters sub silentio ; yet, desirous of tempering the rigour of the law with mercy, they appointed that, until it should be otherwise ordered, two of her Sisters, discreet and circumspect in temporal matters, should be joined

to the Prioress in the administration of the temporalities of the House, apart from whose counsel and assent she should do nothing. Then the conduct of the Sub-prioress was examined, and it was discovered that she had in many ways neglected her duty against delinquent Sisters, that she absented herself without cause from matins and other canonical hours, and had evilly encouraged others to do the like. The Commissaries ordered that she should be rebuked for these faults by the Prioress in the Chapter, openly in the presence of all her Sisters. And they concluded their Ordinance by strictly directing that, for the better regulation of the House in future, no secular person should be permitted to sojourn therein, to the grievance and injury of the Nuns.*

In explanation of one item in this Ordinance, I may inform the reader who feels surprise at the command that a criminal should be bound to keep the precincts of her House, that very much greater latitude than modern times suppose was accorded to the members of mediæval Sisterhoods. It was not for upwards of two centuries subsequent to the transaction now before us, that Nuns were rigidly confined to the boundaries of their conventual home. Previous to this, they visited their friends in the neighbourhood and elsewhere, and were allowed, with certain provisions for their safety and good name, to keep up a friendly correspondence with the laity of their own sex. It would have been no unusual circumstance in mediæval times to meet a Sister of Canyngton or Buckland in the busy streets of Taunton or Bridgwater, and to hear the devout blessing and kindly greeting that ever, as we may well be sure, accompanied their steps.

* Reg. Rad. ff. ccclxxxvijb, ccclxxxviiij, ccclxxxviiijb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, pp. 243, 244.

On the 18th of June in the following year, 1352, at Wyvelescombe, the Bishop admitted Robert de Charenchowes, Priest, to the Vicarage of Canyngton, on the presentation of the Prioress and Convent.* The Archdeacon of Taunton was ordered to induct him.

Shortly after this the House received one of its most valuable accessions of property. On the 24th of January, 1353-4, John de Chidiok and Robert de Sambourn were empowered by writ of privy seal to give and assign twelve pence of rent with appurtenances in Whytherigg, in the county of Devon, and the advowson of the Church of the same vill, not held of the King in chief, to the Prioress and Convent of Canyngton, to be held by the said Prioress and Convent and their successors for ever. Also similar licence was conveyed to the Prioress and Convent to receive the rent and advowson aforesaid, and to appropriate the Church and rent aforesaid to their own proper use. The writ was dated, witness the King, at the Tower of London, on the day and year above mentioned.† This was confirmed by writs of inspeximus, on the payment of half a marc, by Richard the Second, at Westminster, on the 5th of March, 1379-80;‡ and by Henry the Sixth, also on the payment of half a marc, at Westminster, on the 16th of October, 1426.||

On the 26th of March, 1354, the Bishop granted permission to Isolda, the wife of John Byccomb, to sojourn in the Priory until the Gule of August, an ancient name for the first day of that month.§

* Reg. Rad. f. ccccvij. MS. Harl. 6965, p. 248.

† Pat. 27 Edw. iij. p. 3. m. 1. Appendix, No. v.

‡ Pat. 3 Ric. ij. p. 2. m. 15.

|| Pat. 5 Hen. vj. p. 1. m. 21.

§ Reg. Rad. f. ccccxixjb.

On the 10th of February, 1362-3, Henry de Lutton was presented by the Prioress and Convent to their lately acquired Church of Wytherigge, in the Diocese of Exeter, by exchange with Robert Crosse for the Church of Spaxton, in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The Dean of Molton and the Rector of Estantsty, the Bishop of Exeter's officers entrusted with an investigation of the case, reported, in answer to a commission dated at Chuddeleigh, the 16th of January, 1362-3,* that the aforesaid Church of Wytherigge was of the patronage of the Nuns of Canyngton, and was of the estimated value of twenty pounds ; that the cause of exchange on the part of the said Henry, as publicly reported, was that adjacent to the Church of Spaxton a great lord, James de Audelegh, spent the greater part of his time ; that the said Henry had a just action at law against the said James, which he dared not pursue so long as he continued in the neighbourhood, by reason of the deadly hatred which the said James bore against him. The cause of exchange on the part of Robert was that the cure of the said Church of Wytherigge was great and onerous, and that the said Robert could not, according to his conscience, attend to its care and government as he ought, by reason of his manifold duties in attendance on the lord Bishop, and his frequent absence resulting thencefrom. This return was dated at Wytherigge, on the 23rd of January, 1362-3.† On the receipt of this the Bishop of Bath and Wells returned an to answer his brother at Exeter, approving and confirming the same, dated at Wyvelescombe, on the 25th of January.‡

* Reg. Rad. in Drok. f. cclxxxviiib.

† Reg. Rad. in Drok. f. cclxxxix. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, pp. 156, 157.

‡ Reg. Rad. in Drok. f. cclxxxix.

On the same day Robert Crosse was presented to the Church of Spaxton, on the presentation of James de Audelegh, lord of Redcastle and Helegh. His change of residence resulted, as we shall subsequently see, in a considerable addition to the revenues of the House.

One of the grievances which the inmates of Monasteries had to endure as best they could, was in the shape of a corrody. This was a sum of money, or an allowance of meat, drink and clothing, granted by the Superior of a religious House, or exacted by the King, towards the maintenance of some servant or other dependant that required to be provided for. It will be recollected that one of the charges against the Prioress, some few years before, was that she had sold several of such allowances without licence, to the injury and damage of her House. We saw also in the case of the Abbey of Athelney, that that community was obliged to petition the King to grant a remission of the burden, to the support of which it was wholly unequal. Canyngton Priory was similarly favoured by the Sovereign, as the series of facts which I now offer to the reader will only too plainly declare.

In pursuance of a writ addressed to William Cheyne, the King's eschaetor, dated at Westminster, the 12th of July, 1370, an inquest was held at Ilmystre, before that officer, on Tuesday next after the feast of S. Margaret, in the forty-fourth year of Edward the Third, or the 23rd of July, 1370, and a verdict returned by the following jurors :—Adam Swyf, William Hucker, William Moure, Richard Cook, William Walround, William Dounham, William Shelf, Robert Hare, Thomas Deme, Laurence Wyly, Robert Dany and Thomas Dusty. These presented that Roger Montfort, deceased, was an

outlaw, and that he held no lands or tenements on the day of the promulgation of his outlawry, or afterwards to his death, of the King in chief, but only a corrody for life by the concession of the Prioress of Canyngton, at Canyngton. The corrody was of the yearly value of forty shillings. They further presented that the Sheriffs of Somerset for the time being were the receivers of the said corrody for the use of the King ; and that the said Robert died on the feast of Corpus Christi, in the forty-second year of the King's reign, the 8th of June, 1368, and left no heirs.*

Robert Crosse had been Vicar of Spaxton for between nineteen and twenty years, when he gave his neighbours, the Prioress and Convent, a conspicuous proof of his respect and regard.

A writ was addressed, witness the King, at Westminster, on the 28th of April, 1382, to John Rodeston, the King's eschaetor in Somersetshire, by which he was directed to take the verdict of a jury, whether it would be to the damage or prejudice of the King or others, if licence should be given to Robert Crosse, Parson of the Church of Spaxton, to give and assign six messuages, one hundred and nine acres of arable land, and eight acres of meadow, with appurtenances, in Poulet, to the Prioress and Convent, for her and her successors to find two sufficient and good wax candles, "*duos cereos vocatos Torches*," one at the right and one at the left corner of the High Altar in the Priory Church, to burn through and from the time of the Consecration of the Elements daily and every day at Mass, in honour of the same, to the conclusion of the Service. The inquisition consequent upon this was taken before the

* Inq. p. m. 44 Edw. iii. n. 45. Appendix, No. VI.

said John Rodeston, at Bryggewater, on the Thursday in Whitsun week, in the fifth year of the aforesaid King, which is coincident with the 29th of May, 1382; and the jurors—Ralph Barwe, John Poterne, Stephen Pyllet, Thomas Bouchre, William Smyth, Robert Pottere, Richard Stenyng, William Portere, John Bonons, John Ffrenssh, William Athelard, and William Parys—returned a favourable verdict. They presented that it would not be to the loss of the King or others if the licence as aforesaid should be given; that there was no other mesne lord between the King and the said Robert Crosse but the Master of S. Mark's Hospital at Bristol, of whom it was held by a service of two shillings a year, payable at Midsummer; that the value in all issues was forty-six shillings and four-pence a year, besides all reprises, and no more, inasmuch as the sea flowed daily over the said land; and that the said Robert had, besides the land aforesaid, a carucate of land, with its appurtenances, in Kyngeston by Taunton, which was of the true yearly value in all issues of sixty shillings, and was held of the Bishop of Winchester by a service of twenty shillings a-year.* Licence was accordingly granted, on the payment by the Prioress of twenty marcs, dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 16th of June, 1382.†

It may be interesting to the local reader to be told that the following places are mentioned as situated in Canyngton, in documents dated on the Wednesday after the feast of S. Laurence, in the 13th year of Richard II., or the 9th of February, 1389-90, and on the Thursday next after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy

* Inq. p. m. 5 Ric. ij. n. 81.

† Pat. 5 Ric. ij. p. 2. m. 12. Appendix. No. vii.

Cross, in the 18th year of the same monarch, or the 17th of September, 1394 :—Pachet, Northerferthyng, Southerferthyng, Gotelond, Le Yerd, Crossemore and Pachettesmore.*

On the 20th of July, 1407, John Hert, Priest, was presented to the Vicarage of Canyngton by the Prioress and Convent.† He did not long retain his Benefice, but exchanged it with William Baron, Vicar of Lyme, in the Diocese of Sarum. The commission to investigate was issued on the 13th of September, 1408, and Baron swore canonical obedience as Vicar of Canyngton on the 20th of the same month.‡

From this point the Episcopal Registers furnish us with the names of a series of ecclesiastics who were admitted to various degrees of Holy Orders on titles granted by the Prioress and Convent. These notices are of the utmost interest, not only in connexion with the Priory, but to writers of Family Histories, and to ecclesiastical students in general. No apology, therefore, can be needful, for presenting them to the reader in particular detail.

At a General Ordination in the Cathedral Church of Wells, by Bishop Nicholas Bubwith, on Holy Saturday, 1409, William Russell was ordained Sub-deacon.|| At that in the Parish Church of Banwell, by the same Bishop, on Saturday in Ember week, the 21st of September, 1409, the same William was ordained Deacon;§ and Priest by the same Bishop, in the Cathedral Church of Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 11th of April, 1411.¶

On the 29th of April, 1411, the Bishop directed letters under his great seal to the Prioress and Convent, contain-

* Hyll Cartulary, pp. 64,65.

† Reg. Bowet, f. xliiij.

‡ Reg. Bowet, f. liij. Reg. Bubwith, f. xix.

|| Reg. Bubwith, ad fin.

§ Reg. Bubwith, ad fin.

¶ Reg. Bubwith, ad fin.

ing his licence that any Nuns of their House, who should desire to profess, and were of ability so to do, might lawfully be consecrated by any Catholic Bishop, and on any day which should be selected for the solemnity by the said Prioress and Convent.*

In the year following a circumstance occurred which, although the result was favourable, must have caused no little amount of disquietude to the good Prioress and her Sisters. We saw that in the January of 1332-3, a licence was granted to Robert Ffiutz Payn, to give certain lands in Canyngton and Radeweye to the Prioress and Convent for the maintenance of a Chaplain, who should celebrate Divine Service daily in the Church of Canyngton. It appears that either he or some member of his family, for on the question of identity, both of giver and of gift, the subsequent proceedings essentially turned, gave them a similar benefaction in connexion with the Chapels of Pederdam (for so the record uniformly presents the names) and Combewyche, but that the conditions annexed to this latter gift had not been duly attended to. Hereupon the Prioress found herself involved in a legal process for neglect and violation of contract, during which various particulars hitherto unknown to us were elicited. At an inquest, held at Stokvrey, on Monday, the morrow of the feast of the Holy Trinity, in the thirteenth year of K. Henry IV., or the 30th of May, 1412, before Robert Veele, the King's eschaetor in the County of Somerset, it was found that the dominus de Coursy had at some former time given to the Prioress of Canyngton and her successors certain lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, wood, and the tithes of corn, and the rest of the small tithes in Pederdam by Combewyche and in Combewyche,

* Reg. Bubw. f. lj.

to find a fit Chaplain who should celebrate Divine Service for ever, and for the same to pray for the souls of the Kings of England and their successors, to wit, in the Chapel of S. Leonard, at Combewyche, on every other Sunday and on every other double festival throughout the year; and also in the Chapel of S. James, at Pederdam, aforesaid, on every other Sunday and on every other double festival throughout the year. That the aforesaid Prioress had ceased to find such a Chaplain in the Chapel of S. James, at Pederdam, for the five years last past before the taking of the Inquisition. That the lands and tithes aforesaid in Pederdam were of the annual value of four mares, and in Combewyche of ten mares. And further that Johanna, the Prioress of Canyngton, had received and appropriated the issues and profits accruing from them to the day that the Inquisition was taken. The Prioress was accordingly called to account, and the case was heard in Trinity Term, 1414. The Barons of the Court of Exchequer then agreed that the Prioress should be warned by writ of *scire facias* to show cause why she should not account, answer, and do satisfaction to the King out of the issues and profits of the said lands from the time of the cessation of Divine Service to that of the present hearing. After various legal preliminaries, she replied by Richard Hukelegh her attorney, that—inasmuch as in the aforesaid Inquisition no finding was arrived at as to what name the aforesaid Lord de Cursy bore, nor what lands or tithes were given to the aforesaid predecessor of the Prioress and her successors, nor that the lands and tithes aforesaid were given before or after the passing of the Statute of Mortmain, nor that the then King nor any of his progenitors were the founders of the Church or Priory of Canyngton,

nor that the then King nor any of his progenitors had given the aforesaid lands and tithes or any other to the aforesaid Prioress or any of her predecessors—she sought a cessation of the action and a release in respect of the issues specified. The Judges ruled in her favour, and decided that the Inquisition was not sufficient in law for putting the Prioress on her answer, or for delivery of seisin of the aforesaid lands and tithes into the King's hand, or for burdening the Prioress in respect of their issues. Judgment was accordingly given for the defendant, by reason of the insufficiencies of the Inquisition aforesaid.*

I presume that in the Prioress Johanna of the year 1412 we have an addition to our series of hitherto known Superiors. For although the name of Johanna was borne by the next in our list, that lady did not die until 1440 ; and the interval would seem far too long for us to refer both of the events to one and the same person.

In the year 1414, the Vicarage of Canyngton was valued at eight marcs.†

It will not be amiss to record, as illustrative of the neighbourhood, although the fact has no immediate connexion with the Religious House on the history of which we are now employed, that William Poulet de Bere, Esq., built a Chapel at Ichestok, to the honour of the Blessed Virgin, adjoining to the north side of an older Chapel, and that a writ was received by the eschaetor, with the usual enquiries in respect of his founding in the same a Chantry for one fit Chaplain, who should daily celebrate Divine Service in behalf of the founder during his life, and for his soul after his decease, and for those of his ancestors, and his heirs,

* Memorand. in Scacc. 1 Hen. v. m. xiiij. Appendix, No. VIII.

† Reg. Bubw. f. lxxxxb.

and all the faithful departed. This writ was dated at Westminster, the 14th of July, 1415. The proposed endowment consisted of three messuages, one hundred acres and half an acre of arable, sixteen and a-half acres of meadow, three acres of pasture, one penny of rent, and five acres of wood, with their appurtenances, in Ediston, Stokecursy, Pederham by Combewych, Seternemedede, Ichestoke, and Canyngton. An inquest was held at Bruggewater, on Monday, the feast of S. Calixtus, Pope, in the third year of the reign of Henry V., or the 14th of October, 1414, before Matthew Coker, the eschaetor, and a favourable verdict was returned.* The Bishop's licence for this foundation was not granted, as it would appear, until the year 1427, when a document of that kind is inserted in the Register, dated at Woky, the 24th of April.† The same Register records the presentation thereto by Willmian Panlet de Bere, the patron, of Thomas Spreth, on the 28th of June, 1427,‡ and of Henry Yurde, on the 18th of October, 1430.||

On the 25th of August, 1417, William Clyve, Priest, was presented by the Prioress and Convent to the Vicarage of Canyngton, void by the death of William Baron.§

On the 20th of the following October, Bishop Bubwith granted his licence to William Kenne, for one year, to have masses celebrated "voce submissa" by a fit and proper Chaplain, in an oratory situated in his Court House, at Canyngton, so far as might be without prejudice to the parish Church of the same.¶

Notwithstanding the benefactions which have been detailed, the Convent was far from affluent. A special

* Inq. ad q. d. 3 Hen. v. n. S.

‡ Reg. Staff. f. xxxij.

§ Reg. Bubw. f. cxxxijb.

† Reg. Stafford, ff. xxixb—xxxij.

|| Reg. Staff. f. lvij.

¶ Reg. Bubw. f. cxxxiiijb.

instance of this now comes before us, and will be followed by several of a similar kind, in its exemption from the payment of the King's disme. In answer to a brief for making this collection, dated at Westminster, the 22nd of December, 1417, the Nuns of Canyngton, Barowe, and Ivelchester, are specially and by name excepted.*

In answer to a similar commission, dated the 20th of September, 1421, the Priory of Canyngton was again specially exempt, and with it those of Barogh and Staverdale, and the Hospitals of Bristol and Wells.†

Again the Prioress and Sisters granted titles for Holy Orders. At an ordination in the Church of S. Cuthbert, Wells, by Richard, Bishop of Kato, Suffragan, on Saturday in Ember week, the 7th of June, 1421, John Exbrigge, of the diocese of Exeter, was ordained Sub-deacon; and in the same Church, and by the same Bishop, was admitted to the Order of Deacon, on the 7th of March, 1421-2.‡

In the Chapel of the B.V. Mary by the Cloister of the Cathedral Church of Wells, on the 18th of December, 1423, Robert Wyllly was ordained Sub-deacon by the same Bishop; and Deacon by the same and in the same place, on the Saturday "*quo cantatur Officium Sicientes*," the 8th of April, 1424.‡

John Hody was presented to the Rectory of Wytheridge by the Prioress and Convent, on the 16th of September, 1425.||

At this period a painfully interesting notice of the state of the place is furnished by the return to an enquiry by K. Henry VI., dated at Westminster, on the 16th October, in the fourth year of his reign, 1425, concerning lands

* Reg. Bubw. f. cxxxviiijb.

‡ Reg. Bubw. ad fin.

† Reg. Bubw. f. clxxxvjib.

|| Eccl. Antiq. Dev. i. 191.

which were injured by war or the incursion of the sea, and were consequently exempt from the payment of the King's tenths. The Church of Canyngton is there said to be appropriated to the Prioress and Convent, and not taxed nor accustomed to pay the tenth; that in this Church there was a Vicarage endowed but not taxed; and that within the parish there was some time back a manor, together with certain tenements in Pedyrham, belonging to the same Prioress and Nuns, but that both the manor and the tenements aforesaid were destroyed by inundations of the sea.*

At an Ordination in the Church of S. Cuthbert, Wells, by Richard, Bp. of Kato, on the Saturday in Ember Week, the 16th of March, 1425-6, Walter Hogges was ordained Sub-deacon, on the title of the Prioress and Convent.† The same was ordained Deacon by the same Bishop in the Conventual Church of Bruton, on Ember Saturday, the 25th of the following May; ‡ and Priest by the same Bishop in the parish Church of Yevell, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of September.|| He was subsequently presented to the Vicarage of Wytheridge.

In an estimate of the annual value of the non-taxed benefices of the diocese, dated at Wells in the same year, the Vicarage of Canyngton is stated to be worth four pounds, or six marcs.§

Richard Hyndeborgh was admitted by Richard, Bp. of Kato, to the Holy Order of Priest, in the Conventual Church of the Preaching Friars of Yewelcheste, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of December, 1427.||

* Reg. Bubw. ff. cxxviiij, cxxviiijb.

† Reg. Staff. f. vj,

‡ Reg. Staff. f. vijb.

|| Reg. Staff. ad fin.

§ Reg. Staff. f. ix.

Richard Morlegh was ordained Sub-deacon by the Bp. of Bath and Wells, in his Chapel at Woky, on Holy Saturday, the 19th of April, 1427;* and Priest by Richard, Bp. of Kato, in the Conventual Church of the Preaching Friars of Yevelchester, on Ember Saturday, the 29th of May, 1428,* on the title of the Prioress and Convent.

The learned author of the "*Ecclesiastical Antiquities in Devon*" informs us that at this time the Priory came into possession of the Church of Wytheridge. He says that in consequence of Pope Martin V.'s recommendation (2 Id. May, 10th Pont.) Bp. Lacy, on the 5th of July, 1427, agreed to appropriate the Church of Wytheridge, on the demise of Philip, the then Rector, to Canyngton Priory, whose possessions in Somersetshire had suffered greatly "propter ipsius maris fluxus et refluxus et alios diversos casus," but that the Convent was charged to remit 30s. yearly at Easter, to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, for the advantage of the Cathedral Choristers, and at the same time to distribute 6s. 8d. among the poorest parishioners: that the Convent came into possession on the 5th of June, 1428, but, neglecting to comply with the conditions, Bp. Lacy, on the 31st October, 1454, decreed the sequestration of the Rectory: that the money was soon paid, and that the Prioress was hereupon the invariable patron until the suppression.† The Convent however, was certainly in possession of the Rectory, as we have already seen, at least sixty years before this period.

Later in the year 1428, Canyngton had a new Vicar in

* Reg. Staff. ad fin.

† Oliver, Eccl. Antiq. of Devon, j. 189.

the person of John Grene, Chaplain, who was admitted on the presentation of the Prioress and Convent on the 5th of October.*

Walter Hogges was presented to the Rectory of Wytheridge, on the resignation of Philip Lovecock, or Polton, on the 16th of March, 1429.†

John Wolmere was ordained Sub-deacon, by Richard, Bp. of Kato, in the parish Church of Yevell, on Ember Saturday, the 24th of February, 1430-1 ; Deacon by the same Bp. in S. Cuthbert's, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 26th of the following May ; and Priest on the following Ember Saturday in the Conventual Church of Bruton.‡ He was afterwards Vicar of Wytheridge.

Walter Hogges did not long remain at Wytheridge. Thomas Bowryng occurs as Vicar in 1431, and on the 3rd of October in that year, exchanged his benefice for the Chantry of Walton Glanvile, in the Diocese of Salisbury, with Robert Gaunt.†

By a mandate, dated at Dogmersfeld, the last day of December, 1432, a subsidy of two-pence in the pound was ordered to be levied on all ecclesiastical benefices, for the counsel of Basle. As the Priory is omitted from the list of the exempt, we are led to hope that its affairs were in an improving condition. At the same time the Vicarage was estimated at ten marcs, which also is a satisfactory contrast to the six marcs of the valuation last before us.||

The improvement, however, if real, was not of long duration, for "the poor Nuns of Canyngton" are again placed among the exempt from payment of the King's dime in the Bishop's certificates, dated at Dogmersfeld, on the 20th

* Reg. Staff. f. xliij.

† Eccl. Antiq. Dev. i. 191.

‡ Reg. Staff. ad fin.

|| Reg. Staff. ff. lxxxiiij, lxxxiiiij.

of April, 1435.* A similar return was made from his Inn in London, on the 6th of February, 1437;† and from the same place, on the 2nd of May, 1440.‡

Shortly before the last mentioned date, Prioress Johanna de Chedeldon was gathered to her predecessors. Bishop Stafford issued a commission to John Bernard, Succentor, and John Stevenes, his Commissary General, Canons of Wells; and, as licence had been obtained by the Sisters from Robert, dominus de Ponyngges, the patron, to elect a successor to the deceased Prioress, and the Sisters had unanimously chosen Johanna Gofyse to the vacant office, and had pleaded their deep poverty in mitigation of expences connected with the election, empowered them to hear and examine witnesses, and if they should find the said election to be canonical and the elect fit, to install and induct her into corporal possession, all things being done according to the rule and custom of the place. They were, further, to send him a faithful account of their proceedings within the next twenty days after confirmation. The commission was dated at his Inn in London, on the 14th of April, 1440.||

Walter Haysshford, or Ayssheforde, was ordained Sub-deacon on the title of the Prioress and Convent by John, Bishop of Olena, in the Temple Church, Bristol, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of May, 1440 ;§ and Deacon by the same Bishop in the parish Church of Axbrugge, on Ember Saturday, the 24th of the following September.§ We shall meet with him afterwards as Vicar of Canyngton.

In 1445, a subsidy was demanded of the Clergy in aid of the King against the Saracens and Turks, when the

* Reg. Staff. ff. cxjb, cxij.

† Reg. Staff. f. cxlj.

‡ Reg. Staff. f. cxlvijb.

|| Reg. Staff. ff. clxv, clxvb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 54.

§ Reg. Staff. ad fin.

Vicarage of Canyngton was again valued at eight mares, and the Vicar paid eight pence as his share of the aid.*

On the death of Robert Gaunt, Vicar of Wytherigge, John Wolmere succeeded him on the 4th of June, 1448.†

In a list of the Priests in the Archdeaconry of Taunton, and Deanery of Bruggewater, dated at Taunton, the 20th of January, 1449-50, Thomas Hidam and Walter Haychessford occur as “capellani annuellarii” of Canyngton.‡

On the 26th of September in the same year, 1450, a certificate, dated at Woky, again declared “the House of the poor Nuns of Canyngton” to be exempt from payment of the King’s tenths, “propter exilitatem,” on account of the lean state of its finances.||

The Vicarage was shortly afterwards vacant, by the death of John Grene. Prioress Johanna and Convent presented Walter Aysshford, Chaplain, of the Order of S. Benedict, to the benefice, who was admitted at Bagshot, in the diocese of Winchester, on the 18th of February, 1451-2.§

John Wolmere resigned the Vicarage of Wytheridge, and the Prioress and Convent presented William Clyff to the benefice on the 16th of July, 1451.†

Once more there was a certificate of exemption in favour of the Sisters. It was dated from the Palace at Wells, the 1st of October, 1453.¶

On the 23rd of February, 1459-60, at Banwell, Bishop Bekynton granted his licence to Leonard Tylly, Esq., of the parish of Canyngton, and Johanna his wife, to have Divine Service celebrated in his Chapel at Withel, in the said parish, but without prejudice to the parish Church.**

* Reg. Bekynton, f. xxixb.

† Eccl. Antiq. Devon, i. 191.

‡ Reg. Bek. f. cvb.

|| Reg. Bek. ff. cxviijb, cxviiij.

§ Reg. Bek. f. cxxxviiij.

¶ Reg. Bek. f. clxvb.

** Reg. Bek. f. cclij.

Stephen Beyden, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte, on the title of the Prioress and Convent, by John, Bishop of Tino, at S. Cuthbert's, Wells, on the 7th of June, 1460.*

In the course of the same year, Alianor Hille, of Canyngton, departed this life, and left behind her a very interesting will, dated the 14th of October, 1458, and written on paper by her own hand. The lady was possessed of considerable property, and was evidently on the most intimate terms with the good Sisters of the Priory, whom, as it will be seen, she specially remembers. It breathes in every line of the goodness of the writer's heart, and makes me feel that I shall best consult the pleasure of my reader by giving it to him in full. It is as follows :—

“IN THE NAME OF JHV. I Alianor Hulle beyng by the mercy of God in my good mynde write this p'sent testament with myne owne hande the whiche I desire and wil that it be kept and p'fourmed w'tout a later wil be maad of me. FIRST AND moost specially I betake my soule to the swete mercy of our Lord Jhu Crist besechyng hym as he made hit by his infinite goodnes and bought hit with the most dere price of his precious blode that he graunt hit a place among the nombr of his chosen people in the blisse of hevyn. Also I bequethe my wrecched body to be beried with in the quere of the Monchyns of Canyngton. Also I bequethe to ye same Monchens J peyr of Chaundelers of silver. A crosse of silver and a censer of syluer And the appayrell of the auter of white damaske. And a chesiple such as they wol desir of iij. Also I wol that my fader Husewyfe haue al my good that I haue at Canyngton that is not specially bequethed in this testament

to his owne vse and to departe ther of to my seru^antes at his owne wille. And I desire that assone as it may goodly be done that I may haue a m^l masses songyn after the departyng of my wrecched soule. And also I wil that the pour folkis that haue any wokely comfort of me that they haue hit whiles they lyve payed by the handes of myn Executours. Also I wil that the co^mune beddyng that longeth to myn houshold be departed among goddis pour creaturis that is to seye yeman beddes bothe matras blankettes and shetes. Also I bequethe my mantel my cloke al my gounes and furies to pour Religious that haue nede. And that the almes of my lytel pursis be continued as long as is lefte eny good that is to seye vij^d in worship of seynt Kateryn and vij^d to pour folkes. Also I bequethe to my fader Housewyf my greet porcons and my litel porcons and my greet sauter. Also I bequethe my fader Husewyf my greet cuppe Edward. Also I bequethe my father Husewyf my blue byble of latyn. And also I bequethe to Sir John Fforstesku the best gylt cuppe that I have & to Richard Walshawe a potte of sylver. And for to fulfille my wille I make myn Executours S^r John Ffortesku S^r Roger Husewyf and Richard Walshawe. Wreten the xiiij day of Octobr the yer of the Kyng Harry y^e vj^{te} xxxvij^{ti}."

On the 2nd of January, 1460-1, Richard Walshawe, gentleman, one of the aforementioned Executors, appeared before Bishop Bekynton in the Chapel of the Palace at Wells, and exhibited the will. On the same day the Bishop from the same place issued a commission to John Saunders, Rector of Enmer, and Walter de Hashford, Vicar of Canyngton, to receive the oath of Roger Huswyf, Chaplain, one of the Executors, of faithful administration. Administration was granted to the said Roger, after oath by him

to Walter Haysshelford, the Bp's Commissary, in the Church of Canyngton, on the 27th of the same month.*

On the 9th of August, 1461, at Westminster, King Edward IV. in demanding his tenth alleges the great "burdens and charges that resten upon us, and daily must for the common weel," and orders the collectors "that ye certifie noon excepciens saue oonly suche as of verraye necessite and pitee most and oweth to be certified." The urgency of this appeal resulted in the Bp's omission of the Sisters of Canyngton from his certificate of exemption, although he includes "the poor Nuns of Barowe."† The same occurs in a certificate dated in the Palace at Wells, the 11th of January, 1462-3;‡ but the Sisters have their usual exemption in one dated at the same place, on the 9th of January, 1463-4.||

At an Ordination in the Chapel of the B. V. M. by the cloister of the Cathedral Church of Wells, by John, Bp. of Tino, on Ember Saturday, the 13th of March, 1461-2, John Edyngton, of Glastonbury, was ordained Sub-deacon, on the title of the Prioress and Convent.§ The same John was ordained Deacon, by the same Bp. and in the same Chapel, on Ember Saturday, the 3rd of April, 1462;§ and Priest in the same place on Ember Saturday, the 18th of the following September.§

At an Ordination, by John, Bp. of Tino, in the conventual Church of Mochelneye, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of September, 1466, Thomas Aleyn, of Merk, was ordained Priest, on the title of the Prioress and Convent.¶

In the Conventual Church of S. John the Baptist, at

* Reg. Bek. ff. cclxb, cclxj.

† Reg. Beb. f. cclxxxj.

§ Reg. Bek. ad fin.

† Reg. Bek. ff. cclxviijb, cclxviijb.

|| Reg. Bek. f. cclxxxxviijb.

¶ Reg. Stillington, ad fin.

Wells, by the same Bishop, on the 14th of March, 1466-7, John Westlegh, of Canyngton, was ordained Sub-deacon, on the title of the same;* Deacon by the same in the Lady-Chapel by the cloister of the Cathedral Church, on Holy Saturday, the 28th of March, 1466-7; and Priest by the same, in the parish Church of S. Mary Magdalene, Taunton, on the 19th of September, 1467.*

The Nuns were again exempted from the payment of the King's tenths by a certificate of the Bishop, dated at his Inn, outside Temple Bar, the 10th of November, 1468.† The exemption was repeated by certificates dated at the same place, on the 3rd of August, 1472,‡ and on the 21st of April, 1475.||

In the Lady-Chapel in the cloister, at Wells, by John Bishop of Tino, John Smyth, of Evereriche, and John Lugwardyn, of Taunton, were ordained Sub-deacons, on Ember Saturday, the 23rd of December, 1469.*

In the same place, and by the same Bishop, on Ember Saturday, the 17th of March, 1469-70, John Smyth and John Lugwardyn were ordained Deacons, and John Nitherton, of Brugwater, Sub-deacon.* John Nitherton, was ordained by the same Bishop, Deacon, in the Conventual Church of Bruton, on Ember Saturday, the 7th of April, 1470; and Priest, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 21st of the same month.*

In the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on the vigil of the Holy Trinity, the 16th of June, 1470, by the same Bishop, John Smyth was ordained Priest,* and John Lugwardyn was admitted to the same Order in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember

* Reg. Stillington, ad fin.

† Reg. Still. f. xxb.

‡ Reg. Still. f. lxxxiiijb.

|| Reg. Still. f. xcviij.

Saturday, the 22nd of September, 1470.* He was afterwards Vicar of Canyngton and Succentor of Wells.

In the same Church, and by the same Bishop, John Cumsyn, of Stokcursy, was ordained Acolyte, on Ember Saturday, the 9th of March, 1470-1 ; on the last day but one of the same month he was ordained Sub-deacon in the Chapel of S. Thomas by Bristol Bridge ;* Deacon in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 13th of April, 1471 ;* and Priest in the same Church, on the 21st of the following September.*

Walter Hayssheford, Vicar of Canyngton, died in 1472, and, on the 25th of September in that year, Thomas Braunche, Chaplain, succeeded on the presentation of the Prioress and Convent. The Archdeacon of Taunton was ordered to induct.†

William Clyff, Vicar of Wytheridge, died in 1474, and John Wynd succeeded, on the presentation of the Prioress and Convent, on the 17th of June in that year.‡

At an Ordination, by John, Bp. of Tino, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 17th of December, 1474, William at Water, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte.*

In the same Church, and by the same Bishop, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of September, 1476, John Gerard, of Taunton, was ordained Sub-deacon.* He was ordained Deacon at the same place, and by the same Bishop, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of the following December.*

At the same time and place, Thomas Teesdale, of Canyngton, was ordained Sub-deacon ;* Deacon on Ember Saturday, the 1st of March, 1476-7 ;* and Priest on Holy Saturday, the 5th of the following month.*

* Reg. Stillington, ad fin.

† Reg. Still. f. xxxvj.

‡ Eccl. Antiq. Devon, i. 191.

John Wynd resigned the Vicarage of Wytheridge, and Richard Facy succeeded on the 15th of March, 1476.*

In the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 19th of December, 1478, William Ben, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte.†

At the same place, on Ember Saturday, the 6th of March, 1478-9, Henry Rayn, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte.†

On Ember Saturday, the 18th of the following December, in the same Church, Walter Ffonten, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte, by John, Bishop of Ross.(?)†

On Ember Saturday, the 25th of February, 1479-80, in the Chapel of Blessed Mary of Redclyf, by Bristol, William Vphyl, of West Pennard, was ordained Sub-deacon, by the same Bishop;† Deacon by the same, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 18th of March;† and Priest in the same Church, on the Eve of the Holy Trinity, the 27th of May, in the same year.†

William Lewys, of the Diocese of Llandaff, was ordained Sub-deacon, by the same Bishop, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 17th of March, 1480-1;† Deacon, on Holy Saturday, the 21st of April, 1481;† and Priest, on Ember Saturday, the 22nd of the following September.†

In the Lady-Chapel in the Cathedral Church of Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 18th of December, 1484, John Algar, of Canyngton, was ordained Sub-deacon by Thomas Barrett, Bp. of Guachdun.(?)†

The House during all this time did not improve in affluence, and the Nuns were again specially exempted from

* Eccl. Antiq. Devon, I. 191.

† Reg. Still. ad fin.

payment of the Kings tenths, by certificates of the Bishop, dated at Wells, the 2nd of June, 1485,* and the 7th of May, 1487.†

William Eston, of Est Pennarde, and John Holcomb, of Cleve, were ordained Sub-deacons in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of May, 1486;‡ Deacons, at the same place, (together with John Raybon, of Cumb S. Nicholas, who was ordained Sub-deacon) on Ember Saturday, the 23rd of September;‡ and Priests, on Ember Saturday, the 23rd of December, in the same year.*

On the same day, Henry Meryk, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte.‡

Henry Meryk was ordained Sub-deacon, and John Raybon Deacon, at the same place, on Ember Saturday, the 10th of March, 1486-7;‡ and the former was admitted to the Order of Deacon, in the Chapel of Blessed Mary of Radclyf, by Bristol, on Ember Saturday, the 31st of March, 1487, by the same Bishop.‡

In the Conventual Church of Taunton Priory, on Saturday, the 22nd of February, 1487-8, Henry Merik and John Raybone, were ordained Priests, by Thomas, Bp. of Tino. On this occasion upwards of one hundred persons were admitted to various Orders.‡

In the Conventual Church of Brewton Priory, by the same Bishop, John Birche was ordained Sub-deacon, on Ember Saturday, the 22nd of March, 1487-8;‡ Deacon, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 5th of the following April;‡ and Priest, on the Eve of the Holy Trinity, the 13th of June, 1489, in in the parish Church of Axbrige.‡

* Reg. Still. f. cxxvijb.

† Reg. Still. f. cxlb.

‡ Reg. Still. ad fin.

William Perett was ordained Sub-deacon in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of December, 1488;* and Priest, in the same Church, on the 4th of April, 1489.*

Soon after this, at the latest, Elianor was Prioress of Canyngton. We are indebted for our knowledge of the fact to the Register of the appointment of a new vicar. John Lugwardyn resigned in 1499, and on the 8th of November, in that year, John Bekham, L.L.B., was presented by Elianor, the Prioress, and Convent, to the vacant benefice.†

Thomas Pederame, of the diocese of Bath and Wells, was ordained Sub-deacon, and John Barrey, of the diocese of London, by letters dimissory, was ordained Deacon in the Lady Chapel, at Wells, by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, on Holy Saturday, the 30th of March, 1499.‡ Thomas Pederham was ordained Deacon, and John Barrey Priest, by the same Bishop, in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister, at Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of September, in the same year.‡ And the former was admitted to the Order of Priest, by the same Bishop and in the same place, on Ember Saturday, the 4th of April, 1500.‡

John Abbot was ordained Sub-deacon by the same Bishop, in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister, at Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 6th of March, 1500-1,‡ and Priest, in the parish Church of S. Cuthbert, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 18th of September in that year.‡

A record of a far different character now claims our notice. Robert Hyll, late of the parish of Canyngton, "tayllour," was charged before the King's Justices, for

* Reg. Still. ad fin.

† Reg. King, f. liij. MS. Harl. 6966, p. 157.

‡ Reg. King, ad fin.

that he, on the 20th of November, 1496, did "*vi et armis viz. baculo et gladio*," break into and enter the house of John Puryman, at Canyngton, and did take and carry away from thence four shillings in money, three yards of black linen cloth worth 6s. 8d., three yards of linen cloth worth 8s., and one gown of murrey worth 16s. After a lengthy investigation before John Pykman, Archdeacon of Bath, and John Lugwardyn, Succentor of Wells, he was pronounced by a jury not guilty, and was declared to be restored to his former estate and good name. The Bishop's mandate to the Dean of Briggewater, the Curate of Canyngton, and John Bartilmewe, Apparitor, for the proclamation of the purgation of the said Robert, to be made in the parish Church of Canyngton, and in the cathedral Church and the public market-place of Wells, was dated at Dogmersfield, on the 12th of October, 1501.*

Elianor was still Prioress of Canyngton in 1502, for she and her Convent presented Thomas Davy, Priest, to the Vicarage, void by the resignation of John Bikkom, on the 23rd of August in that year. The mandate to the Archdeacon of Taunton to induct was dated at Athelney, on the day already mentioned.†

The Vicar died shortly after, for Thomas Tremayne, A.M., was presented to the benefice, void by his decease, on the 9th of February, 1503-4, by Elianor, the Prioress, and Convent.‡ He paid for his institution, through John Bekham, the Bishop's Commissary, the sum of 6s. 8d.||

At an Ordination in the parish Church of S. Mary Magdalene, Taunton, by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, on Ember

* Reg. King, ff. lxxij, — lxxiiijb.

† Reg. King, f. xcvi. MS. Harl. 6966, p. 164.

‡ Reg. King, vac. f. iiij. Reg. Warham, Abp. Cant. f. xcviijb.

|| Reg. Warham, f. ccijb.

Saturday, the 23rd of March, 1503-4, John Hore was admitted to the Order of Sub-deacon.*

Prioress Elianor must have been numbered with her predecessors early in 1503-4, for Cecilia Verney was confirmed in her office of Prioress on the 30th of March, 1504. Her election was exhibited in the Chapter-house at Canyngton, by Master John Standerwyke, her procurator, and the ceremony of confirmation in her office was performed by Master John Beckham, L.L.B. The Archdeacon of Taunton, or his official, was ordered to induct.† This occurred, as will be seen by the reference, during a vacancy in the See of Bath and Wells. In this lady the House received its last Superior, as we shall presently have to notice in greater detail.

William Pavle was ordained Priest by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, in the Lady Chapel by the Cloister, at Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 6th of April, 1504.‡

Edmund Stybe was ordained Sub-deacon by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister, at Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of December, 1505;|| Deacon in the same place on the 28th of March, 1506;|| and Priest on Holy Saturday, or Easter Eve, the 11th of the following April.||

In the conventual Church of Bruton, by the same Bishop, John Boldey was ordained Sub-deacon on Ember Saturday, the 19th of September, 1506;|| Deacon, in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister at Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 19th of the following December,|| and Priest, in the same place, on the 27th of February, 1506-7.||

* Reg. Warham, f. ccjb.

† Reg. Warham, Abp. Cant., f. ccj.

‡ Reg. Warham, f. ccij.

|| Reg. Hadr. ad fin.

John Gade was ordained Sub-deacon, by the same Bishop, on the 19th of December, 1506;* Deacon, on the 27th of February, 1506-7;* and Priest in the same place, on Ember Saturday, the 18th of September, 1507.*

This was the last ecclesiastic (so far as I can find) that was admitted to Holy Orders on the title of the Prioress and Convent. There may, of course, have been a few others so ordained at different times to supply their chaplaincies, but the record of the fact is unknown to me.

Thomas Tremayne was admitted to the Vicarage of Wytherigge on the 15th of February, 1517; and, at his death, George Verney, not improbably a relative of the Prioress, succeeded on the 23rd of September, 1521.†

I can also supply two more Vicars of Canyngton, while the right of presentation was yet in the Convent's hands.

On the 3rd of February, 1522-3, Richard Adams, Priest, was presented to the Vicarage, and the Archdeacon of Taunton ordered to induct.||

And, on the resignation of Adams, Cecilia, the Prioress, and Convent presented John Bonde, Chaplain, on the 19th of December, 1532.§

The reader will perceive that we have now arrived at the evil days when Canyngton Priory and its Sister Institutions were about to give place to another and very different order of things. Before I present him, however, with the facts of the melancholy story, there are a few matters which will more naturally occupy our attention while the picture of the House in the ordinary circumstances of its existence is still before us, though on the very eve of the tempest which changed all to ruin, than when that

* Reg. Hadr. ad fin. † Eccl. Antiq. Dev., i. 191.

|| Reg. Wolsey, f. xxj., MS. Harl. 6967, p. 31b.

§ Reg. Clerke, f. 49b. MS. Harl. 6967, p. 45b.

tempest had descended, and sacrilegious hands had obliterated what had hitherto been so fair.

My previous pages will have given to the student of Monastic History many and minute details of some of the most interesting episodes of conventual life. The wise and careful oversight exercised by the Ordinary towards these communities, so truthfully exemplified in the earlier Registers of the Bishops of Bath and Wells,* the formalities consequent on the election of a Superior, both at times when such election was completed without recourse to the extraordinary interference of the diocesan, and also when there was an unhappy necessity for his more special intervention, the rare occurrence of a Visitation for the proof and punishment of delinquencies, and the exercise of the various rights of the Sisters as patrons and landowners, all and each have received abundant illustration from the foregoing narrative. I desire, however, briefly to engage the reader's attention on a subject of considerable interest, about which less is known to the generality of students than the importance of it deserves,—the daily life of these Sisterhoods in the ages of mediæval England.

It will not have escaped his notice that Canyngton Priory was not only the home of the professed Sisters of the House, but that others of at least gentle birth not unfrequently enjoyed a sojourn within its walls. This fact exhibits the present and similar communities, for it was by no means confined to this particular locality, under an aspect very different from that which has ordinarily obtained. A Sisterhood in mediæval ages was not so much

* As some proof of the unwearied diligence of mediæval episcopal government, I may inform the reader that the Registers of Bps. John de Drokenesford and Ralph de Ealopia consist of just fifteen hundred folio pages of small and much abbreviated writing, on diocesan matters of every imaginable kind.

a community rigidly excluded from the world, as one living in and leavening the world that lay around. It was a home of peace, of purity, and of refinement, where Woman could best carry out the instincts of her holier nature, and elevate the general character of her sex. Among the Sisters themselves there were constantly members of the highest and noblest families ; and their society, even apart from its religious elevation, was such as to command unfeigned and universal respect. Nor was there in the Cloister that dreary life of forced asceticism with which modern days have ever loved to associate it. The frequent presence of well-born guests, and the kindly intercourse maintained with the neighbourhood, combined with the hearty free-will, and in most cases deliberate choice of the life itself, united not only to endear the existence to those who took its vows upon them, but constantly to attract strangers to its fellowship. In the neighbourhood of such a Sisterhood the Nuns were well and affectionately known. They were the teachers of the female part of the population, and their presence in the houses of their pupils was by no means unusual. We noticed at an earlier page the confinement of a delinquent Nun to the precincts of her House, in punishment of past immorality and for the prevention of further scandal. This shows us the ordinary and usual latitude which conventual rule allowed. Examples of express permission to visit the neighbourhood are frequent. One occurs to me in connexion with an adjoining diocese. Bishop Stapeldon, in January, 1320, sent a pastoral letter to the Prioress and Convent of Polslo, near Exeter, in which are given sundry regulations for the better government of the House. Among others are the following :—That any religious who had leave to visit her friends in a certain place was not to go to any other without express per-

mission : that any Nun who should take refreshment in Exeter, or elsewhere, should return the same day, or the day following at the very furthest, together with her companion, and that the Chaplain, or some esquire of good name and fame, should be appointed by the Prioress as their escort : that, while in Exeter, they were not to wander from house to house, to the dishonour of their estate and religious profession : that, should the family or friends whom the Nun was to visit reside at a greater distance, the duration of absence was to be regulated by the circumstances and the command of the Prioress ; and that, in the event of any disobedience to this rule, the punishment should follow of enclosure for two years within the outer gate of the Priory.* Bishop Grandisson gave a similar injunction in 1329 to Margaret Aunger, Abbess of Canon's Leigh, that no religious should go from her House to a distance from which she could not return on the same day. I have also an instance from the diocese of Bath and Wells, but that had better be reserved for a future occasion. The monitions contained in these pastoral letters are conclusive of the fact that the rigid enclosure of Nuns was altogether unknown. The Sisters were indeed not of the world, but they were in it, actively and intelligently to do a good work to it,—to elevate, to console, to purify, and to bless.

It is abundantly evident that the Nuns of Canyngton were on excellent terms with the neighbouring families. The small amount of their finances made this a matter of considerable importance, and yet theirs was a state of most honourable poverty, which exalted rather than disgraced the sufferers. They may not have been surrounded with the pomp and magnificence of many of

* Reg. Stapeldon, f. cxlvb.

their wealthier Sisters, but this detracted nothing from their real usefulness, or from the respect which they inspired. Their life was of a higher character than any which the mere presence or absence of worldly wealth could elevate or degrade.

The costume of the Nuns of Canyngton differed from that of their Sisters at Buckland.* They wore a black robe, with a scapular of the same, and a white whimple; and under the robe a tunic of undyed wool. When in choir or from home, a large black cowl covered the head and shoulders. (*See the figures.*) The dress was not intended to be elegant or picturesque, but was rather adopted for its opposite peculiarities. It well and accurately harmonised with Crashawe's description of the life and duties of the wearers :—

“A hasty portion of prescribed sleep,
Obedient slumbers that can wake and weep,
And sing, and sigh, and work, and sleep again,
Still rolling a round sphere of still returning pain;
Hands full of hearty labours, pains that pay,
And prize themselves; do much that more they may;
And work for work, not wages.”

* I am glad to take the present opportunity of making a few additions to my History of that interesting place. Mynchin Buckland rarely figures in the Wells' Registers, and the references which follow, as well as those which I have already given, are well worth preserving. At page 6, note †, the Cotton MS. should have been placed first, and that in the College of Arms second, to which the subsequent remarks respectively apply. At p. 8, note †, Reg. Well. f. 38, should be Reg. Well. r. 38, n. 135. At p. 13, n. †, add, The witnesses to this gift were John de Erl and Ralph de Flure. MS. Harl. 4120, f. 5. At p. 18, in reference to the foundation of the chantry at Newton Place, mention is made of a charter of the year 1290, or thereabout, of Richard de Plesseto. This charter is given in Bishop Bubwith's Register, ff. cxlvij b, cxlvij, cxlvij b, where it is appended to an inquisition touching the foundation of that chantry, held at Bridgwater, on the 2nd of August, 1418. The witnesses to the appended charter are Richard de Bramford, Preceptor of Bocland; Geoffrey de Wrokeshale, Knt.; Lord James de Plesseto, Richard de Nyweton, John de Marysco, Peter de Hamme, John



"NORAYRES DE CANNYNTUNE."

Thos. Hugo del. & sculp. 1863.

Of the material scene of these good labours very few fragments yet remain. The exterior of the present edifice is of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and is in no respect remarkable. There still exist, however, some portions of the basement, where the subsequent alterations have spared a few fragments of the ancient House. These consist of several walls and doorways of Perpendicular work, both within the building and communicating with the gardens in the rear. The ground plan of the structure cannot be determined from these remains, as what would seem to have been apartments now take the form of passages, from walls having been built through them for increasing their strength as foundations of the upper floors. Of the general architecture of the House and Conventual Church nothing can be said. Some years since, during a series of excavations, fragments were discovered of what appear to have been a reredos. They are of tabernacle work of the Perpendicular era, and still

Manger, and many others. At p. 19, note *, add MS. Harl. 1192, f. 7. At p. 20, note §, add Reg. Well. III. f. 157. At p. 21, the composition between the Prioress Isabella la Louwe and Geoffrey and William Samuel was made in the Chapter-house at Boclonde, on Monday next after the feast of S. Faith, Virgin, in the 29th (?) year of Edward iij., and the confirmation was dated at Banewell, the 19th of November, 1328. (Reg. Drok. f. cccb.) At page 22, note *, add Reg. Rad. ff. x, xb. At p. 24, note *, add Reg. Rad. ff. cxvj, cxvjb. At p. 31, note †, add Reg. Rad. ff. ccclxxxvij, ccclxxxix, ccccxijb. At page 34 there is a typographical error of some importance. The Sisters held from ancient times an annual pension of four marcs, payable to them from the Vicarage of North Pederton. In 1447 Robert Noris, the Vicar, refused to pay this money, and, on the 22nd of April in that year, Bishop Bekynton issued from Dogmersfelde a commission to John Stokys and William North, Bachelors of Law, to enquire into the Sisters' claim. (Reg. Bek. f. lixb.) In 1449, two years after this, Robert Cooke is mentioned as "capellanus annuellaris" at Bokeland. (Reg. Bek. f. cvb.) At p. 58, place among the Preceptors, Richard de Bramford, about 1290. At page 88, add The second and third fragments were doubtless portions of one stone, and the word is Scherlond. And at page 89, add The incised slab was in length 6 ft. $\frac{3}{4}$ inc.; in breadth at head, 3 ft. $\frac{3}{4}$ inc.; at foot, 2 ft. $\frac{1}{2}$ inc.

bear traces of the blue and red colour which the taste of that day applied to carvings in wood and stone. The altar-stone of the Nuns' Church, or at least a slab bearing five consecration crosses, is built into the fire-place of an old kitchen; and when contrasted with its former position, its cover of white damask (p. 50), and the sacred services with which it was associated, is a significant emblem of the fate which has befallen the spot and its olden possessors. The choir, as we have already seen, was a place of sepulture; but of that fact no other record remains save the one of which the reader is already in possession.

There is, however, a veritable relic of no little interest in the roof of what is now a dark passage, but which may have formed the side of a large apartment, possibly the refectory itself. On two of the beams are three lines of inscriptions, painted in a hand of the fifteenth century. The letters are black, on a white ground, with the capitals of each sentence, and points between each word, in rubric. They are for the most part imperfect, but are easily intelligible. On the front of one beam is :

♦ et ♦ dabit ♦ tibi ♦ petracores ♦ cordis ♦ tui ♦
 Multi ♦ multa ♦ sciut ♦ et ♦ scripcos ♦ nesciunt ♦

The opposite side of the same beam gives us :

Felix ♦ paupertas ♦ per ♦ quam ♦ acquirit
 honesta ♦ res ♦ leta ♦ paupertas ♦

On the front of a second beam we have :

Nichil ♦ nobis ♦ proderit ♦ paciencia ♦ didiscisse ♦ p t
 ♦ ope ♦

Such was the sacred lore that the very timbers of Canyngton Priory preached to its inmates. The words might stand as mottoes for the history of the House

itself. Human life and all its trials were thus referred to the good providence of God; and patience and self-knowledge thus glorified poverty, and taught that, combined with honesty and honour, the lowliest lot was not without its joy.

Lord Clifford has most obligingly supplied me with several particulars of the excavations just referred to. An old well in the centre of the court was cleared out, and an encaustic tile and fragments of several "grey-beards" were discovered. The remains of the reredos had been worked into a large fire-place, which had pitched so much in the centre as to require removal, when the stones were found to be sculptured at the back, and, of course, were not re-committed to their previous and most inappropriate place. Behind the fire-place a quantity of old stained glass was also found, but in such minute fragments that it could not be put together. The panel-work in the present dining-room was a portion of the old family pew in the parish Church, and was removed when that edifice was "restored" about twenty years ago. In opening a door-way in one of walls the workmen came upon the remains of a circular staircase, the three steps of which were composed of solid blocks of oak, of similar form to an ordinary turret stair. The newel was converted by the carpenters into stall-posts for cattle. His lordship also informs me that no ancient documents relating to the place exist among his family archives,—indeed nothing earlier than the crown grant of the property, made by K. Charles II. to the Lord Treasurer Clifford.

From the foregoing pages I can furnish the reader with the following list of Prioresses. I must refer him for the details respecting each of them to the narrative itself.

1. Emma de Bytelescumb resigned her office in 1317.
2. Johanna de Bere, elected and deposed, 1317.
3. Matilda de Morton, elected 1317, resigned her office 1333.
4. Willelma de Blachyngdon, elected 1334, died 1336.
Johanna de Bere, re-elected 1336, died 1343.
5. Avice de Reigners, elected 1343.
6. Johanna occurs 1412.
7. Johanna de Chedeldon died 1440.
8. Johanna Gofyse, elected 1440.
9. Elianor occurs 1499 and 1502, died 1504.
10. Cecilia Verney, the last Prioress, elected 1504.
Johanna de Bractone was Sub-prioress in 1336.

It will not be amiss to add to this list those of the Vicars of Canyngton and Wytheridge, again referring the reader to the previous pages for the various details.

VICARS OF CANYNGTON.—Henry, 1313; William de Trent, 1314; Robert de Charenchowes, 1352; John Hert, 1407; William Baron, 1408; William Clyve, 1417; John Grene, 1428; Walter Aysshelford, 1451; Thomas Braunche, 1472; John Lugwardyn, —; John Bekham, 1499; Thomas Davy, 1502; Thomas Tremayne, 1503; Richard Adams, 1522; John Bond, 1532.

VICARS OF WYTHERIDGE.—Robert Cross, 1362; Henry de Lutton, 1363; Edmund Malmeshull, 1377; William Vexford, 1391; John Luffewike or Lovecock, —; John Hody, 1425; Philip Lovecock or Polton, —; Walter Hoggys, 1429; Thomas Bowryng, —; Robert Gaunt, 1431; John Wolmere, 1448; William Clyff, 1451; John Wynd, 1474; Richard Facy, 1476; Thomas Tremayne, 1517; George Verney, 1521.

A feature of mediæval usage which will not have escaped the readers' notice was the selection of various places for

the admission of clerks to Holy Orders, thus prominently bringing before the people the fact and importance of their ministers' commission. Among these were the Cathedral Church of Wells, the Parish Churches of S. Cuthbert in the same city, of Banwell, Yeovil, Axbridge, Taunton S. Mary Magdalene, S. Mary Redcliff and Temple at Bristol, the Chapel of S. Thomas by Bristol Bridge, and the Chapel at Woky, and the Conventual Churches of S. John Baptist at Wells, the Preaching Friars of Ilchester, Taunton, Muchelney, and Bruton. The officiators were usually Suffragan Bishops, with titles from places "in partibus infidelium."

I have already given in detail the particulars of the history of Canyngton, so far as it had reference to the Priory, or other ecclesiastical holders. Although not required by my subject, a word may now be added about its lay possessors.

The hundred of Canyngton was held by the family of Fitz Payn in the 14th and 15th centuries.* At an inquest held at Stokecursy, on the 7th of October, 1323, it was returned that Robert Ffiuz Payn and Ela his wife might without damage and prejudice to the King enfeoff Jordan de Byntre and Geoffrey de Godmaneston with lands in Stokecursy, Radeweye, Canyngton, &c.† John Horsy demised a water-mill at Canyngton to John, Margery, and Thomas Cole, and Matthew Palmere, and the heirs of the said John, 44 Edward III.‡ The families of Hyll and Popham, and subsequently that of Ponynges, also possessed lands of considerable value. In a charter, dated at Canyngton, on Thursday, the feast of

* Inq. p. m. 9 Edw. II., n. 63. Abbrev. Rot. Orig. 17 Edw. II., r. vij. Inq. p. m. 30 Edw. III., n. 14. Inq. p. m. 16 Ric. II., p. 1, n. 12.

† Inq. ad q. d. 17 Edward II., n. 143.

‡ MS. Harl., 4120, p. 192; al. f. 121b.

S. Thomas, Apostle, 1385, it is set forth that John Popham, son and heir of Hugh Popham, gave to William, son of Stephen Dodesham, eleven acres of meadow, lying in Canyngtonmede, called Pophamesshurst, and fourteen pence of annual rent from an acre of meadow then in the tenure, for life, of Richard Deye, with reversion after the decease of the said Richard; witnesses, Matthew Michel, Richard Lyff, Richard Koker, Roger Grey, Roger Haccheford, and others.* A final concord was entered into between Thomas and John Popham, in Trinity Term of the 10th, and Hilary Term of the 11th Richard II., of the grant of the manor of Postrygg and of twelve acres of land in Canyngton, with an ultimate remainder to Thomas Fitchet, Knt., in fee.† On Thursday next after the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, 18th of Richard II., which is coincident with the 6th of May, 1395, Robert Popham, son of Hugh Popham, released to Baldewin Mallet, Knt., all his right in the manor of Postrygg, and in various lands in Canyngton, Cherdelynych, Ayscholt, and Gotehurst.‡ At an inquest held at Yeuelchestre, on Friday, the morrow of the feast of Corpus Christi, in the first year of Henry VI., or the 4th of June, 1423, the jurors found that Robert Hille had died, seized, among other property, of one messuage, four acres of arable land, and six acres of meadow in Canyngton, which were held of Robert, lord de Ponyngges in soccage, and were of the annual value, beyond reprises, of 10s.; and also, by right of inheritance of Isabella his late wife, of eight acres of meadow, in Canyngton, held of Thomas Muchell in soccage by an annual rent of 4d. in lieu of all services; and, further, that

* Cartæ Miscell., vol. VIII., n. 50.

† Hyll Cartulary, f. lxij.

‡ Hyll Cart., f. lxiiij., &c.

Robert Hille died on Sunday, the feast of S. Mark the Evangelist last past, and that John Hille was his heir.* On the 6th of October, 23rd of Henry VI., 1444, Johanna, widow of James Ffitz James, and John, their son and heir, released to William Dodesham, and his heirs and assigns, lands in Otelegh, in the parish of Canyngton, and in Haretrowe, in the parish of Stokegommer; witnesses, Alexander Hody, John Sydenham, Thomas Copleston, Philip Pym, John Loty, and others.† Alianor, Countess of Northumberland, held the manor of Canyngton in the first year of Richard III.‡ And forty-four years later Henry, Earl of Northumberland, Lord of Ponynge, Fitzpayne, and Bryan, granted to Thomas Arrundell, Esq., the office of Receiver of the Castle of Stockursey, and the manors of Stockursey, Radewoy, Canyngton, &c. The instrument is dated the 9th of June, 1527.||

The history of the Priory shall now be resumed.

For an account of the national events of the time, and the ecclesiastical changes to which they led, for the latter were simply brought about in revenge of the opposition of the Monks to the King's matrimonial designs, I must refer the reader to my former histories of various Religious Houses. I am unwilling to occupy his time further with a matter which I have already helped to make familiar to him.§ In many particulars the history of one pillaged Monastery and its persecuted inmates is that of all, how unequally soever endowed, or how widely soever located from each other. The same foul ways were taken to

* Cart. Miscell., vol. v., n. 236. MS. Harl., 4120, pp. 321, 322.

† Claus. 23 Hen. VI., m. 26. dors.

‡ MS. Harl., 4120, p. 405; al. f. 223.

|| Cart. Antiq., H. 24.

§ See especially the Author's History of Taunton Priory, pp. 82-106.

accelerate the catastrophe, the same base minds conspired, and in many instances the same sacrilegious hands consummated the wrong.

The declaration of the Royal Supremacy was forced upon the Monasteries in 1534. No record, however, of the circumstance, so far as regards Canyngton Priory, has come down to us; though it doubtless fared like its neighbours on all sides, and both received the declaration, and attested its acceptance of the same.

This compulsory admission of the tyrant's claim was by no means intended as a mere victory over the mental opposition of the Religious Orders, but was accurately valued as an engine of future spoliation. Accordingly, the very next year, 1535, saw the compilation of the "Valor," by the aid of which the Religious Houses were to be taxed, in proportion to their several incomes, for the support of the King in his new-fledged honours; and further, that an exact account might thus be had of all ecclesiastical property, which might be turned to good use when the proper season should arrive. The record from its very nature is especially valuable and interesting, as it furnishes us with a complete account of the property of the House wherever situated, together with the various outgoings of every kind. I have given it, as on former occasions, in exact translation, and have clearly arranged the several items with a view of making the whole as intelligible as possible to the modern reader.

PRIORY OF CANYNGTON.

Declaration of the Extent and Annual Value of all and singular the Lands and Tenements and other Possessions, with the Tithes, Oblations, and all other Issues of the divers Benefices and Chapels, to the aforesaid Priory belonging and appropriated, as below appeareth, to wit,

in the time of Cecilia Varney, now Prioress at the same place, approved and examined by the Commissioners aforenamed [Sir Andrew Lutterell and Hugh Mallet, Esq., Commissioners ; Hugh Trotter and John Plompton, Auditors].

LANDS ROUND THE PRIORY.

Value in Issues of the Demesne Lands remaining	} liij ^s iiij ^d
in the hands of the Prioress, and taxed by	
four trustworthy men	

RECTORY WITH THE MANOR OF CANYNGTON.

Value in Issues of the Demesne

Lands xvj^{li}

Assessed Rents as well of the

Free as of the Customary

Tenants there, per annum, xvij^{li}

Out of this,

For two Priests in the same

Priory, and in the Chapel of

Comage appropriated to the

Priory, daily Celebrating for

the Founders, by real com-

position xij^{li}

Paid to the Vicar there by

pension by composition . . vij^{li}

In Alms distributed for the

soul of Robert Curey, the

Founder there, per annum lxxv^s j^d

Paid to the Bishop of Bath by

procurations, per annum . . v^s

Paid to the Archdeacon of

Taunton, for Sinodals, per
annum iiij^s iiij^d

Quit-rent to the Prioress of

} ciij^s

Bockeland, per annum ..	vij ^s	}
Quit-rent to Thomas Michell, per annum	ij ^s viij ^d	
Quit-rent to Roger Blewet, per annum	iiij ^s	
Fee of Thomas Hatche, Stew- ard there, per annum ..	xxvj ^s viij ^d	
Fee of Robert Jamys, Receiver there, per annum ..	xxvj ^s viij ^d	
Fee of Robert Hyll, Auditor there, per annum ..	xx ^s	
Fee of Christofer Cley, Bailiff there, per annum ..	xxvj ^s viij ^d	

And there remains clear
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties
there, with Fines of Land xxx^s

BLAKEDOWN.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear xiiij^s

FEDYNGTON.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear iiij^s

POWLETT.

Assessed Rents there, per annum	lxx ^s ij ^d	}	lxviiij ^s ij ^d
Out of this,			
For a Quit-rent to the Master of Gauntts, in Bristoll ..	ij ^s		

And there remains clear

STOWEY.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear xxiiij^s iiij^d

BRYSTOLL.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear v^s

COUNTY OF DORSET.

PEDILWALDERSTON.

Rent of two Tenements there,				
per annum	..	..	xix ^s	
Out of this,				} xvj ^s iiij ^d
A Quit-rent to the Prior of				
Criste Church in the afore-				
said County, per annum			ij ^s viij ^d	
And there remains clear				

COUNTY OF DEVON.

WETHERIGE.

Rent of two Tenements there,				
per annum	..	..	[xliij ^s]	
Out of this,				} xxxviij ^s iiij ^d
A Quit-rent to the Duchy				
of Lancaster there, per				
annum	..	..	iiij ^s viij ^d	
And there remains clear				

GOODELEY.

Rent of divers Tenements there,				
per annum	..	..	evj ^s	
Out of this,				} iiij ^{li} x ^s
A Quit-rent to the Cathe-				
dral Church of Exon, per				
annum	..	..	xvj ^s	
And there remains clear				

SKYLGATE.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear xv^s

VALUE OF SPIRITUALS AS FOLLOW :

VICARAGE OF CANYNGTON.

Issues of Wool	..	..	x ^s	
„ Lambs	..	..	x ^s	
„ Predial Tithes	..	evij ^s	ij ^d	} vij ^{li} xv ^s iiij ^d

Issues of Personal Tithes, with
 other Casualties there, in
 common years xxvijs j^d

So clear

DEVON.

RECTORY OF WETHERIGE.

Issues of Predial Tithes, with other Casualties
 there, per annum. Clear vij^{li}

DORSET.

FREE CHAPEL OF PEDYLWALDERSTON.

Rent of Demesne Lands, with other Casualties
 there, in common years. Clear xl^s

Sum total of the value as well of all
 the Temporals as of the Spirituals

above-mentioned. Clear .. .xxxix^{li} xv^s viij^d

The Tithe thereof lxxix^s vi^d ob' q'*

Even this valuation, small as it is, appears to have been considered excessive; for an entry occurs in a document still preserved among the records of the Court of Augmentation, of which the following is a copy:

“The Priory of Cannyngton in the said County of Somerset.

“The seid Pryory and the demaynes thereof lyeth within thre myles of Towxwell, howbeit ther is lytele proffytt to be don therein for it is heighlye valuatyd.”

The Valor supplies us with the following names of Incumbents and Valuations:—

John Bonde, Vicar of Canyngton, valued at vij^{li} x^s viij^d;
 Thomas Puffe, Rector of Ffedyngton, valued at vj^{li} x^s ij^d
 ob; Thomas Shakyll, Chaplain of Ichestoke, valued at
 ciijs vj^d; and George Verney, Vicar of Witherigge, valued
 at xxiij^{li} x^s iiij^d.

* Valor Eccl. j. pp. 209, 210. MS. Harl. 701, fol. 104b.

This return was the groundwork of the persecutions and spoliations which ensued. It revealed the existence of possessions which were too tempting to be allowed to remain long in the hands of their rightful owners, and the Visitation and Dissolution of the Houses followed in as quick succession as the covetous mind could bring to its aid the murderous and thievish hand. No time was lost in the atrocious work.

I have at length, by the aid of a document which will presently be submitted to the reader's notice, recovered the exact date of the Suppression of the Priory. It fell together with those lesser Monasteries which first gratified the tyrant's avarice, and whetted his appetite for the greater and more wealthy. It would seem that the King's Commissioners took the property into their hands as early as the 26th of May, 1536, and allowed, from the revenues, a certain sum for the maintenance of the House and the customary exercise of hospitality. The formal act of Suppression and Dissolution took place on the 23rd of September, 1536.

The small extent and value of the possessions will explain the absence of those various Orders for salaries and other payments granted by the Religious Houses, which were afterwards allowed by the Court of Augmentation, and which must have attracted the notice of the reader of several of my previous histories. The only instance of such a pension, which I have found, is not among the Orders and Decrees referred to, but is the solitary entry connected with the place in Cardinal Pole's Pension Book, compiled in 1556 ; where, as the only existing representative of the House, and receiving a pension accordingly, is Thomas Hache, the chief steward, already mentioned in the Valor (p. 74) whose fee is given as xxs.*

* Card Pole's Pension Book, f. xxix. Appendix, No. ix.

I very much regret that a long and careful search among the documents of the period has not enabled me to furnish the reader with any list of the Sisters or their pensions at the period of the suppression of their House. I have found, however, the order for a pension to Cecilia Verney, the Prioress, granted at that melancholy time. It authorises an annuity or annual pension of ten mares sterling from the time of the dissolution and suppression of the late Priory to the end of her life, payable by the hands of the Treasurer of the Court of Augmentation, in equal portions, at Lady-Day and Michaelmas, and is stated to proceed from the King's special favour, certain knowledge, and mere motion, by the advice and consent of the Chancellor and Council of the aforesaid Court, for the better maintenance and aid of the said Cecilia. The grant is dated the 20th day of November, in the 28th year of Henry VIII., 1536, just two months after the Surrender.* It bears no signatures in attestation of authority, and, as the name of Cecilia Verney does not appear in any subsequent list of pensionaries, the probability is that this poor victim of ruthless persecution never received even the miserable pittance thus by her injurers ostensibly accorded to her.

Our last view of the Sisters is thus more unhappily associated even than that of many of the members of similar communities. Out of their quiet Conventual home, so long the abode of security and peace, they were turned out to brave the inclement storms and to struggle against the unexperienced hardships and temptations of a world which they had known only from a safe vantage-ground, destitute, at length, of any friends or protectors, save those whom a recollection of their former estate, respect for their character, or compassion for their sufferings might raise

* *Miscell. Vols. Augment. Off.*, Vol. 241, n. 110. Appendix, No. x.

up and attract. Who can worthily picture the silent and secret martyrdoms of those evil days!

As soon as the property was in the King's hands, a new Survey was taken. It will be better to give the part which remains in somewhat of its original form.

MANOR OF CANYNGTON.

Issues of Demesne Lands :

For 38 acres of meadow		}	
thus leased in gross . . .	xxxiiij ^s viij ^d		} iiij ^{ld} xij ^s viij ^d
For 59 acres of arable and			
pasture, at xij ^d the acre	lix ^s		

RECTORY OF CANYNGTON, IN SOMERSET.

Tithes of corn, &c. :

Less by iij ^s iiij ^d to the Archdeacon of Taun-	}	} vij ^{ld} xv ^s iiij ^d
ton, and v ^s to the Bishop of Bath and Wells		

WETHERIGE, IN DEVON.

Predial Tithes, with other perquisites of the

Rectory vij^{ld}

FREE CHAPEL OF PEDILWALDISTON, IN DORSET.

A portion of Tithes of corn, wool, &c. :

Less by four pounds of wax payable to the	}	} xl ^s
Prior of Christ Church, in Dorset . . .		
The sum total,	..	xxj ^{ld} vij ^s xj ^d

The declaration bears date the 28th year of K. Henry VIII., and is authenticated by the signature of William Turnor, Auditor.*

One of the most interesting and valuable returns of the whole series is now to be examined. It is the Ministers' Accounts for the interval between the 4th of February, 1536, and the following Michaelmas, and presents us with a number of particulars as to tenants, &c., at the time of the Dissolution, which the "Valor," though originally

* Miscell. Voll. Augment. Off. No. 205, p. 28. Appendix, No. XI.

compiled from returns of a similar character, does not supply. I have endeavoured to make the document tell its tale as plainly and intelligently as possible.

THE PRIORY OF CANYNGTON.

The Accounts of all and singular Bailiffs, Farmers, and other accountable Ministers, of all and singular manors, lands, tenements, rectories, portions, pensions, and other possessions, spiritual and temporal, pertaining to the said late Priory now dissolved and suppressed, &c., &c., to wit, from the 4th day of February, in the 27th year of Henry VIII., to the feast of S. Michael the Archangel next following in the 28th year of the same; that is to say, for half a year, six weeks, and six days, as follow :—

The site of the Priory or Manor of Cannyngham, with the Rectory of the same, the Rectory of Whetherge, and the Free Chapel of Pedilwaldeston.

The Account of Henry Andrewe, Deputy of Edward Rogers, farmer :

Arrears none.

Farm of 28 acres of meadow, 59 acres of arable land and pasture, and 6 acres of underwood ..	iiij ^{ld} xv ^s viij ^d	} xxxix ^{ld} xij ^s xj ^d
Farm of Rectory of Cannyngham	vij ^{ld} xv ^s iij ^d	
Farm of Vicarage ..	xvj ^{ld}	
Farm of Rectory of Whetherge, including two Tenements worth xlij ^s	ix ^{ld} ij ^s	
Farm of tithe of corn, wool, &c., pertaining to the Chapel of Pedilwaldeston ..	xl ^s	

SUM TOTAL xxxix^{ld} xij^s xj^d

OF WHICH HE IS DISBURDENED AS FOLLOWS :—

Farm of all the aforesaid
lands, for the first half of
this year, in possession of
the late Prioress, Cecilia
Verney, for her use and
the necessary maintenance
of her House xvij^{ld} xv^s v^d ob.

Pension and commons of the
Vicar there ministering,
including his pension of
xxxvj^s viij^d for one quarter
ending at Michaelmas, at
the rate of vij^{ld} vj^s viij^d per
annum; and vj^s viij^d, for
commons, from the time
of the Dissolution of the
Priory, that is, from the
23rd of September, to
Michaelmas following that
is to say, for the space of
four weeks, at the rate
of xx^d a week xliij^s iiij^d

xxxix^{ld} xij^s xj^d

To the same for stipend
and commons of a Priest
serving the Chapel at
Comage, including xij^s
iiij^d for his stipend for the
same quarter, at the rate
of liij^s iiij^d per annum ;
and iiij^s for commons, for
the said four weeks, at
the rate of xij^d a week xvij^s iiij^d

Delivered to Sir Thomas

Arundell, Receiver-Gen-

eral, viij^{ld} xiiij^s ix^d ob.

Still owing x^{ld} ij^{s*}

DEDUCTION ALLOWED from farm of Manor,
for the last half of this year, on account
of money paid to and received by the late

Prioress as before viij^{li}

Remaining clear xliij^s

OVER :—

Received by the late Prioress of the rents of
two Tenements in Wetherige, payable at

Midsummer xliij^s

CANNYNGTON BAILIWICK, WITH ITS MEMBERS.

The Account of Christopher Cley, Bailiff :

Arrears none.

RENTS OF THE FREE TENANTS in Cannyngton:—

Heirs of Peryman, for one marsh v^s

Rent of one tenement, from heirs

of Thomas Tylly xij^l } vj^s

RENTS OF THE CUSTOMARY TENANTS in Cannyngton :—

Annual Rent of two cottages in the tenure

of Katherine Rowswyll, payable at the

four terms of the year in equal portions ix^s

Annual Rent of one tenement, in

the tenure of David Hunt .. iij^s ij^d

” ” ” Walter Grove .. v^s ij^d

” ” ” Richard Rowswyll .. v^s ij^d

” ” ” John Hoper .. iij^s

” ” ” Agnes Goodman .. iij^s iij^d

” ” ” Robert Grove .. xix

” ” ” Thomasine Rals .. xxv^s vj^d

„	one cottage	„	Alexander Pileman	..	iiij ^s	
„	„	„	Robert Gardyn	..	iiij ^s	vj ^d
„	one tenement	„	Robert Denman	..	viiij ^s	
„	„	„	The Churchwarden	..	ij ^s	
„	„	„	John Bethenze	..	iiij ^s	
„	„	„	John Pounde	..	iiij ^s	
„	„	„	Thomasine Lewys,			
			widow	..	iiij ^s	iiij ^d
„	„	„	Isabella Sumpter	..	iiij ^s	iiij ^d
„	„	„	Isabella Page	..	iiij ^s	iiij ^d
„	„	„	Richard Kympe	..	iiij ^s	
„	„	„	Robert Heyward	..	v ^s	
„	„	„	William Pyleman	..	xlviij ^s	viiij ^d
„	„	„	Leonard Tylly	..	xiiij ^s	viiij ^d
„	„	„	Edward Lokyar	..	xxxj ^s	
„	one cottage	„	Margery Dodyng	..	v ^s	vj ^d
„	one tenement	„	Robert Gover	..	v ^s	
„	„	„	Christopher Clay	..	xxiiij ^s	iiij ^d
„	„	„	George Porter	..	xviiij ^s	viiij ^d
„	one cottage	„	Edythe Dodyng	..	iiij ^s	iiij ^d
„	one tenement	„	John Bawne	..	ix ^s	
„	„	„	John Courte	..	iiij ^s	iiij ^d
„	„	„	John Hunte	..	xxxv ^s	
„	„	„	John Yeomans	..	viiij ^s	viiij ^d
„	„	„	William Piers	..	iiij ^s	viiij ^d
„	„	„	John Lokyer	..	viiij ^s	
„	„	„	John Colles	..	xiiij ^s	iiij ^d
„	„	„	John Fforman	..	vi ^s	viiij ^d
„	„	„	William Browne	..	ix ^s	ij ^d
„	„	„	Isabella Bulpan	..	xv ^s	x ^d
„	„	„	John Cooke	..	viiij ^s	
„	„	„	John Bowe	..	viiij ^s	
„	„	„	John Cornyssh	..	viiij ^s	x ^d

xxix^{ld} xxij^d

„ one tenement „	Richard Power	..	xj ^s	vj ^d
„ „ „	John Porker	..	vj ^s	
„ „ „	Vincent Jenynges	..	xj ^s	
„ „ „	John Bulgen	..	iiij ^s	
„ „ „	Thomas Denegan	..	ix ^s	vj ^d
„ one corn mill „	Richard Burcomb	..	lxxiiij ^s	iiij ^d
„ one tenement „	The same	..	ij ^s	viiij ^d
„ „ „	John Fforman	..	v ^s	
„ „ „	Matilda White	..	ij ^s	viiij ^d
„ „ „	Richard Sowlyng	..	iiij ^s	
„ „ „	Cornelius Hooper	..	iiij ^s	iiij ^d
„ „ „	Robert Marlar	..	iiij ^s	iiij ^d
„ „ „	John Wynter	..	x ^s	
„ „ „	John Fforman	..	iiij ^s	viiij ^d
„ one cottage „	Maurice Dawe	..	iiij ^s	
„ one tenement „	John Staunton	..	viiij ^s	
„ one cottage „	John Beram	..		xvj ^d
„ „ „	Simon Betheze	..	ij ^s	

POWLET.

Assessed Rents :

Of land called The Overland, in the tenure of John Birge	..	xxvj ^s	vj ^d	} lxxviiij ^s
Of land called The Overland, in the tenure of Roger Ffrye	..	xix ^s	vj ^d	
Of lands in the tenure of Thomas Ffrye	.. ..	xvj ^s	
Of lands in the tenure of John Say- well	.. ..	xv ^s	

STOWEY.

Assessed Rents :

Of one meadow, in the tenure of John Morres	x ^s	
--	-------	----------------	--

Of one tenement, in the tenure of John Cowbuck, payable at Michaelmas and Hockday (the second Tuesday after Easter week) xxij ^s	}	xxxij ^s
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SKYLGATE.

Assessed Rents :

Oflands in the tenure of John Sacton and others xv^s viij^d

BURTPORT AND BRADFORD.

Assessed Rents :

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Weryng xj ^s	}	xix ^s
Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of George Redd viij ^s	}	

FFEDYNGTON.

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of William Quyck, payable at Midsummer	iiiij ^s
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BLAKDOWNE.

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Scholand, payable at Midsummer	vj ^s
---	-----------------

BRISTOWE.

Rent of one tenement, payable at the feast of S. James, Apostle	vj ^s
--	-----------------

GOODLEIGH.

Rents of Free Tenants :

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Hartknolle, payable at Lady Day and Michaelmas ij ^s			
Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Elys xiiij ^s iiiij ^d	}		
„ „ „ William Roger x ^s ij ^d			
„ „ „ John Downe xij ^s iiiij ^d			
	cvj ^s		

„	„	„	Joan Sleper	..	xxij ^s	
„	„	„	Henry Shirmond	..	x ^s	
„	„	„	Roger Cloutman	..	x ^s	
„	„	„	Roger Knyght	..	xj	
„	one cottage	„	William Clowtman	..	iiij ^s	
„	one tenement	„	Alice Velacott, widow	x ^s	ij ^d	
SUM TOTAL, xlij ^{ld} xiiij vj ^d						

FEES AND WAGES :

Stipends of accountant, auditor's clerk, &c. xv^s iiij^d

RENTS RESOLUTE, outside the Manor of Cannyngham :

To Thomas Michell, for a chief rent	ij ^s viij ^d	
To the Prioress of Bukland, for a similar rent	vij ^s vj ^d	} xv ^s j ^d
To Roger Blewet, for a similar rent	xv ^d	
To the King, for lands in Goodleigh	iiij ^s viij ^d	

SUM OF THE ALLOWANCES aforesaid xxx^s v^d

AND HE STILL OWES xlij^{ld} iiij^s j^d

OF WHICH HE IS DISBURDENED, AS FOLLOWS :—

To Cecilia Verney, the late Prioress, for moneys expended by her, during the first half of the present year in the maintenance of her House, previous to the first arrival of the King's Commissioners, which was on the 26th of May, in the 28th year of Henry VIII. .. xix^{ld} xviijs iiij^d ob.

To the same, for moneys expended from the said 26th of May, to the time of the Dissolution, the 23rd of September, in the same year, a space of seventeen weeks vj^{ld} x^s j^d

To Sir Thomas Arundell, Receiver-General x^{ld} xviijs v^d

AND HE STILL OWES lxxvijs iiij^d ob.*

* Appendix, No. xii (2).

orchards, &c., as well within as without, and adjacent or near to the site, sept, circuit, precinct, &c., of the said late Priory. Also all the manor of Cannynghon, and all the Rectory of Cannynghon, and the nomination and presentation to the Vicarage of Cannynghon whensoever vacant, with all the rights, members and appurtenances belonging to the said late Priory. Also all messuages, lands, tenements, mills, meadows, pastures, woods, pensions, portions, tithes, offerings and emoluments whatsoever, as well spiritual as temporal, situate, lying or being in Cannynghon, Powlett, Stowey and Ffedyngton, in the county of Somerset or elsewhere soever. The property was rated at the clear annual value of forty-five pounds, eight shillings and ten pence; and was to be held by the said Edward Rogers, and heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, in chief, by the service of a tenth part of one Knight's fee, and a yearly rent of sixteen pounds, eight shillings and ten pence. The issues, &c., to commence from Michaelmas last past. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 8th of May, 1538.*

By a decree of the Court of Augmentation, in Trinity Term, the 4th of July, 31 Henry VIII., 1539, a "pencyon of thre shyillynges and thre pence yerly payable for Synodes oute of the p'sonage of Cannynghon belongyng to the late monastery of Cannynghon in the said countie of Som's'" was allowed to "the Archedeacon of Tawnton, and hys successors," together with arrears from the time of the Dissolution and Suppression, to be paid by the hands of the several particular receivers of the revenues and possessions of the dissolved House.†

* Orig. 30 Hen. VIII., p. 2, r. cccxxj. Add. MSS. B. M., n. 6365, p. 95b. Pat. 30 Hen. VIII., p. 2, m. 9. Leland Itin., II. 68. Appendix, No. XLII.

† Decrees, vol. x, f. ijelijij, ijelijijb.

On the 21st of March, 1539-40, the King granted to Sir John Horsey, for the sum of £1242 3s. 9d. of lawful English money, a tenement and all lands, meadows, pastures, &c., lately in the tenure of George Reed, and situated in the parish of Bradford, in the county of Dorset, and lately belonging to the dissolved Priory of Cannyngton, and parcel of its lands and possessions. They were estimated of the annual value of eight shillings. Besides this, was granted at the same time to the said Sir John Horsey, the site of the monastery of Shyrborne, which had been leased to him, by an indenture dated at Westminster, the 4th of January, 1539-40, from the preceding Michaelmas for the term of twenty-one years, at an annual rent of 104s. 8d. Also the manor of Wyke, in the county of Dorset, leased at the same time and for the same term, at an annual rent of £16 10s. 6d. Also land at Creche, in the isle of Purbyk, formerly belonging to the monastery of Byndon. Also messuages or a mansion called Longleyte, in the county of Wiltes, lately belonging to the monastery of Henton, in the county of Somerset. All this property was to be held by the said John in chief, by the service of a tenth part of one Knight's fee, and, among other payments for the other portions, a farm rent for Bradford of tenpence, to be paid yearly at Michaelmas. The grant bears date, witness the King, at Walden, the 21st of March, 1539-40.*

In the 34th year of his reign the King granted the messuages, lands, tenements, &c., belonging to the Priory, situated in the parish of Goodley and county of Devon, to Humfrey Colles, gentleman, and his heirs and assigns. The grant included the reversion of other property, the particulars of which are recited in its preamble, some account of which will be especially interesting to the local

* Orig. 31 Hen. VIII., p. 2, r. ccxlj. Pat. 31 Hen. VIII., p. 6, mm. 32, 33, 34.

reader. The instrument sets forth that by a certain indenture under the great seal, bearing date at Westminster, the 10th July, in the thirty-third year of his reign, 1541, his Majesty had leased to John Earl of Bath the whole house and site of the late Hospital of S. John of Briggewater, with all the houses, edifices, &c., thereunto pertaining; also a close of pasture called The Hundred Acres, containing by estimation eighty-four acres, and another close of pasture called Smale Crofte, containing by estimation twenty-five acres, commonly called The Demeane Landes of the aforesaid House, for the term of twenty-one years from the feast of S. Michael next following, at a yearly rent of eight pounds, three shillings and sixpence, payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas. Also, that by another indenture between the King on the one part and John Ogan on the other, bearing date the 23rd of October, in the thirty-second year of his reign, 1540, he had leased to the aforesaid John Ogan the Grange of Barton, otherwise called Blakedon, with its appurtenances, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton, together with all the houses, edifices, granaries, dove-cots, orchards, &c., thereunto belonging;—to wit, a meadow called Barnehayes, containing by estimation one acre; a meadow called Parkemeade, containing by estimation two acres; a pasture called Oldhayes, or Oldbares, containing by estimation three acres; a pasture called The Orcheyarde, containing by estimation one acre; a pasture called Fflower, containing by estimation ten acres; a pasture called The Twentic Acres Close, containing by estimation twenty acres; a pasture close called Barnehayes, containing by estimation five acres; a pasture close called The Sevenacres Close, containing by estimation seven acres; a pasture close called Woodercrofte, containing by estimation twelve acres; a pasture close called Laushere, adjacent to

Spyding, containing by estimation twelve acres ; a pasture close of Spryng, containing by estimation seven acres ; a pasture called Kinges Leasse, containing by estimation thirteen acres ; a pasture adjacent to Laushere, containing by estimation one acre ; a pasture called The Priours Parke ; a pasture in the parish of Lyng, in the tenure of Thomas Blansheflower and William Blansheflower ; all the land, in Pytmyster, in the tenure of Richard Mylbury ; all the lands, in Pytmyster aforesaid, in the tenure of Thomas Spryng,—belonging and appertaining to the said grange. Also, that by the same indenture he had leased to the aforesaid John Ogan all the Rectory and Chapel of Corff and Pytmyster, formerly belonging and appertaining to the said late Priory, and all the tithes of corn, pensions, and all other profits whatsoever, of old time appertaining to the aforesaid Rectory and Chapel. The said John Ogan to have and to hold the lands, &c., aforesaid from Michaelmas last past to the end of the term and through the term of twenty-one years, at a yearly rent of a hundred shillings for Barton, and of eight pounds seven shillings for the tithes, &c., of Pytmyster and Corff, payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas, or within a month after. Also, that by another indenture between the King on one part, and James Dyer, gentleman, on the other, bearing date at Westminster, the 29th of December, in the thirty-first year of his reign, 1539, he had leased to the aforesaid James Dyer the Rectory of Trull, with all its rights and appurtenances, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton, with all tithes of corn, wool, lambs, &c., the tithes of Hamewoode and Sernehaye, parcel of the Rectory of Trull, excepted, which were leased to John Smyth ; the said James Dyer to have and to hold the said

tithes from Michaelmas last past for a term of twenty-one years next following, at a yearly rent of eight pounds of lawful English money, payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas. Also, that by another indenture between the King on the one part, and John Luttrell, of Dunster, on the other, bearing date at Westminster, the 28th of October, in the thirty-first year of his reign, 1539, he had leased to the aforesaid John the site of the late House or Priory of Dunster, and all the lands, &c., appertaining thereunto, for the term of twenty-one years, at a yearly rent of seventy-three shillings and four-pence, payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas. This is followed by the recital of some leases of lands formerly in the possession of the monasteries of Pilton and the Grey Friars of Exeter. The grant then proceeds to set forth that for the sum of nine hundred and sixty-two pounds, seventeen shillings and four-pence, of lawful English money, paid by his beloved subject, Humfrey Colles, gentleman, he had granted the reversion of all the aforesaid lands, with their woods, &c., together with the lands at Goodley already mentioned, formerly belonging to the Priory of Canynngton ; the site of the Priory at Bathe and lands belonging thereto ; lands formerly belonging to the Priory of Barliche ; to Sion, in the county of Middlesex ; to Martok Priory, in Somerset ; and to the Priory of S. Bartholomew and other Houses in London. He further grants to the said Humphrey Colles all the woods growing here and there in Priours Parke, containing by estimation twenty acres, in the parishes of Pytmyster, Corff, Trull, and Orcharde, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton ; the wood called Ffoxegrove, containing by estimation ten acres, in the parish of Dunster ; the wood

called Cathanger Grove, containing by estimation four acres and half, in the parish of Stogursey, and formerly belonging to the late Priory of Barliche; the grove called The Parke, containing by estimation ten acres, in Bromefelde, in the parish of Estbuckelande, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Pilton; and the copse called The Lyttlecofs, containing by estimation six acres, in the parish of Estbuckeland, and also formerly belonging to the late Priory of Pilton. Also the advowsons, presentations, &c. of Corff, Pytmyster, and Trull, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. The Barliche property was estimated at the clear annual value of forty shillings; that of Cannyngton at one hundred and six shillings a year; that of Pilton at four pounds and one halfpenny; and that of the Greyfreeres at forty shillings. The said Humfrey Colles was to have and hold these lands, advowsons, rights, &c., of the King and his heirs, and successors, in chief, by the service of a fortieth part of one Knight's fee, and an annual rent for the Bridgwater property, of 16s. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; for the Cannyngton property, of 10s. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; for Barton or Blakedon, Lyng, Pytmyster, &c., of 10s.; for the Rectory and Chapel of Corff and Pytmyster, of 16s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; for Trull, of 2s. 8d., together with a yearly stipend of £6 13s. 4d. to a Chaplain for performing Divine Service in Trull Church; for Dunster, of 7s. 4d.; for Bathe, of 8s. 4d.; for Cathanger, formerly belonging to Barliche, of 4s.; for the Pilton property, of 8s. $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; for that of the Grey Friars of Exeter, of 4s.; for Martok, of 6s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; and for that in London, of 12s. The grant further acquits the said Humfrey Colles of the payment of all corrodies, rents, annuities, &c. except the rents reserved to the Crown, and the stipend of the Chaplain at Trull before mentioned. It concludes by giving him the issues of

the several estates from Michaelmas last past, and is dated at Westminster, the 16th of March, 1543.*

The Blakedone property was Requested for purchase by Richard Androys in the 35th year of Henry VIII. The Request stated that the rent of one tenement was *vj^s*, and of another *viii^s*; and that a "parcell of no manor nor any chase, parke, fforeste, or mancion place of the Kinges maiestie is nye adionyng." "The trees growing in hedgis inclosing the the sayd landes and tenementes wylbarely suffyce to repayre and maynteyne the sayd hedgis and fencys therefore not valuid."† The King thereupon granted to the said Richard Andrewes and Nicholas Temple a tenement in the parish of Blakedon, in the county of Somerset, in the tenure of John Hollard, and certain lands, meadows, pastures, &c., in Blakedon, in the tenure of John Chyrby, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Cannington. The property was to be held in chief, by a service of a fortieth part of one Knight's fee, and an annual rent of 22½^d. The grant, which was to take effect from Michaelmas last past, included other lands in the counties of Worcester, Oxford, Bucks, Gloucester, Wilts, &c., and was dated, witness the King, at Terlyng, the 15th of July, 1543.‡

We have now to notice the fate of the Rectory of Wytherygge. It was first leased to the insatiate Edward Rogers by an indenture, dated at Westminster, the 20th of May, 1536, with all and singular its tithes of corn, hay, lambs, &c., for a term of twenty-one years, at an annual rent of £7. It was subsequently, after a Request to purchase, dated the 12th of March, 35 Henry VIII., granted in

* Orig. 34 Hen. VIII. p. 3. r. xxxij. Pat. 34 Hen. VIII., p. 11. mm. 14 (19)—11 (22). Appendix, No. xiv.

† Part. for Grants, 35 Hen. VIII., Androys Richard, Nos. 18, 30.

‡ Orig. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 1. r. cxxxij. Pat. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 3. mm. 8 (17)—11 (22).

reversion to George Heydon, gentleman, and Hugh Stucley, Esq., for the sum of £301 7s., together with three cottages at Wytherygge, belonging to the late Priory of Cannyngton; the advowson and presentation of the Vicarage and Church of Wytherygge; sundry lands at Rollesclyff, in the parish of Brodeclyst or Brodeclyff and county of Devon, formerly belonging to the Priory of S. Nicholas, Exeter; at Saltmayde, in the parish of Clyff S. George; and at Lewes in Sussex, belonging to that famous Abbey. The Rectory of Wytherygge, with the cottages, &c. was valued at £9 2s. 4d.; the property at Lewes at 16s. 8d.; and that belonging to the Priory of S. Nicholas at £4 13s. 4d. per annum. All was to be held in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one Knight's fee, and, among other payments for the rest, a farm rent for Wytherygge, with the three cottages, of 18s. 3d., payable at Michaelmas. The grant was to take effect from Michaelmas last past, and bears date, witness the King, at Westminster, the 14th of June, 1544.*

In his 36th year, after a Request to purchase, dated the 10th of October, in that year, the King granted to David Clayton, or Clutton, of the city of Westminster, gentleman, for the sum of £221 of good and lawful English money, all the messuages, tofts, cottages, &c., situated in Skilgate and Brussheforde, in the county of Somerset, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Cannyngton. Also a messuage, tenement, mill, and two acres of land, situate in Lucote or Lacote, in the parish of Stokepurowe, in the county of Somerset, in the tenure or occupation of Thomasine Hodges, or her assigns, and formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. Also a messuage in Weshford, in the

* Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 6. r. xx. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 21. mm. 23 (24)–26 (26). Appendix, No. xv.

parish of Oldeclyffe, in the county of Somerset, in the tenure or occupation of John Hobbys, and formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. Also the manor or grange of Hydon, in the county of Somerset, and messuages in the hamlet of Wytham Ffrary, Blackdowne, Chedder, and Predi, in the county of Somerset, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Wytham. Also various lands in Bedfordshire, Nottingham, Wilts, and Yorkshire. The value of the Cannington property was 15s. 8d.; of that of Taunton 7s.; and of that of Wytham 66s. 8d. The grant was dated at Westminster, the 29th of November, 1544.*

The hundred of Canyngton, parcel of the possessions of Henry, late Marquis of Exeter, of high treason attainted, with all its appurtenances, rents, reversions, advowsons of Churches, Chapels, &c., was in the first place leased to the same Edward Rogers, by an indenture, dated at Westminster, the 17th of March, 1541, for the term of twenty-one years from the preceding Michaelmas, at a yearly rent of seven pounds, five shillings, and three-farthings. Its yearly value was estimated at seven pounds, five shillings and one half-penny. The manor of Radway Ffytzpayn, with all its members, &c., parcel of the possessions of the same Henry attainted, valued at the annual sum of twenty-six pounds and elevenpence half-penny, was also leased to the said Edward Rogers, for the term of his life, by an indenture dated at Westminster, the 21st of February, 1541. Further, the free Chapel of Pyddelwaldestone, in the county of Dorset, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Cannington, and estimated at the clear annual value of forty shillings, was leased to the same Edward Rogers, by an indenture dated at

* Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 9. r. l. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 4. mm. 46 (6) —42 (10).

Westminster, the 20th of March, 1537, for twenty-one years from the foregoing Michaelmas, at a yearly rent of forty shillings. The reversion of all these was now granted, from Michaelmas last past, to the aforesaid Edward Rogers, who had by this time acquired the site of the Priory of Mynchin Buckland, and to his heirs male, after a Request to purchase, dated the 16th of June, 1545. The manor of Radway Ffytzpayn and the hundred of Canyngton were to be held in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one Knight's fee; the Chapel of Pyddelwaldestone by fealty only, in free socage and not in chief, with an annual farm rent of four shillings, payable at Michaelmas. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Tychefelde, the 3rd of August, 1545.*

Lastly, after a Request to purchase, dated the 8th of July, 1545, the King granted to Henry Brayne and John Marsshe, for the sum of £739 15s. 2½d., the tenement or burgage, in the tenure or occupation of — Chester, in the parish of S. Michael and city of Bristol, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Cannyngton, and all other messuages, &c., situated in the said city, and formerly belonging to the said late Priory. The aforesaid burgage was of the yearly annual value of 6s., and was to be held in free socage by fealty only, and an annual farm rent of sevenpence halfpenny, payable at Michaelmas. Other lands were included in the grant which formerly belonged to the Monasteries of S. Mary Magdalene Bristol, Bathe, Keynsham, Henton, Wytham, Clyve, Mynchynbarowe, Cirencester, S. Mary of Graces, Shene, Laicok, Braden-

* Orig. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 3, r. ix. Pat. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 3. mm. 37 (9), 36 (10). Appendix, No. XVI.

stock, Tewkesburie, &c. The instrument was dated at Westminster, the 25th of September, 1545.*

The reader will remember the gift of certain lands in Poulet, for the maintenance of lights in the Church of Canyngton (p. 37). Ten acres of this or some neighbouring property in the tenure of Walter Stone, devoted to a similar purpose, — “lyghtes foundyd wⁱⁿ the paryshe churche ther” — of the annual value of viij^s, but, according to the Certificate of Chantries, dated the 8th of February, 2 Edward VI., 1548-9, subject to a “rente resolute paide yerely, xv^d ob’,” to the Duke of Somerset, as of the manor of Tuckeswell, and so remaining clear vj^s viij^d ob’, were granted to William Morris and Edward Isaack.†

A Mansion House and Lands at Canyngton, of the annual value of vj^{li} xv^s vj^d, belonging to the Free Chapel of Ichestok, were granted to Sir John Thynne and Laurence Hide. The plate and ornaments of this Chantry are stated in the Certificate to be “none but a chalice,” the weight of which is carefully given as ten ounces and a half.‡ Thomas Shackeley, the last incumbent, who is returned at the time of the Suppression as “clerke, of thage of 1 yeres,” was still living in 1556, and at that time in receipt of a pension of c^s.||

Preserved in the Record Office, among the former contents of a bag labelled “Augmentation,” is a Roll of Arrears of Pensions and Tenths of Bailiffs and Collectors

* Orig. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 1. r. lxvij. Pat. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 5. mm. 38 (10)—34 (14).

† Sales of Chantries, vol. j. ff. 69, 69b. Certificates of Chantries, 42. n. 64.

‡ Sales of Chantries, vol. ij. ff. 245b., 246. Certificates of Chantries, 42. n. 64.

|| Card. Pole’s Pension Book, f. xxx^{mo}.

in several of the western counties for the year ending at Michaelmas, 2 and 3 Philip and Mary, 1555-6. There are three defaulters connected with the property whose fate we have been investigating. Edward Rogers, one year in arrear for Cannyngton, owed xvj^{li} viij^s x^d, and for Puddeltowne, iiij^d; Antony Ackeland, for tenements in Bristol, vij^d ob.; and William Crowche, for tenements in Blackedon, xxij^d ob. In connexion with that of Mynchin Buckland there are Edward Rogers, for Buckland, owing vij^s vij^d; John Windham, for the manor of Hele, lxx^s; Alexander Popelham, for divers places, xij^s iiij^d; the Vicar of Pawlett, a pension of xij^s iiij^d; the Vicar of Northepetherton, a pension of xl^s; and the Vicar of Talland, a pension of ij^s. There are also defaulters connected with the estates formerly belonging to the Monasteries of Worspring, Barliche, Cleve, Taunton, Mountague, Brewton, S. John's Wells, S. John's Bridge-water, Athelney, Bathe, Keynsham, Henton, Witham, and Glastonbury. The Receiver-General, John Aylworth, prays to be exonerated from these arrears, because in very many cases no distress can be taken, and in others he needs the aid of the Court of Exchequer for their collection. This document supplies positive proof, if such were needed, that the sums charged on the several estates for pensions, tenths, &c., were ignored soon after their possession by the King's grantees. And appended to it is a notice, singularly indicative of the state of utter confusion to which sacrilege had reduced even the spoil for which the horrible work was undertaken, and which may well be allowed to close this fearful tale of spoliation and wrong:—"Memor'd' that the Collectors of the Chantries in the Countie of Somers' haue not this yeare auneswered nor paied any p'te of their

collecc'ons, nor the Receyv^r knowith not who be the Collectors nor where to find them."

The annals of Canyngton are now brought to a conclusion, so far as the main business of the author is concerned, which ends with the alienation of the estates from their lawful owners, and their transfer to the King's grantees. I may add, however, that the property at Canyngton remained in the possession of the family of Rogers until the year 1672. Intestine feuds had bitterly cursed the doomed race, when "the estate tayle of the sayd Edward Rogers determined by the failure of his issue male, on or about the 2nd day of the month of September, 1672."* The sin had attracted the usual judgment. The lands reverted to the Crown, and were granted on the 15th of July, 1672, to Thomas, Lord Clifford. This eminent man was born on the 1st of August, 1630; and was present at the sea-fight with the Dutch, on the 3rd of June, 1665, and at Bergen, on the 2nd of August, in the same year. He was raised to the peerage as Baron Clifford, on the 20th of April, 1672, and was made Lord High Treasurer in the following November. On the 19th of June, 1673, he resigned his office, retired into the country, and died a few months afterwards. A dispute arose about the fee-farm rent of £16 8s. 10d., which, as we have already seen, was ordered to be paid annually to the King. This was settled by decree in the King's Remembrancer's Office, in Michaelmas Term, 29 Charles II. The property has remained in the hands of the Cliffords from that time to our own, and has been occupied by them for the far greater part of the intervening period. In or about the year 1807, the mansion, which, as I have stated, is,

* Harl. Cart. 111 II. n. 22.

with the exception of the few and inconspicuous fragments already described, of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, reverted, by a curious coincidence, after the lapse of between two and three hundred years, to its predecessor's original purpose, and was put into the possession of a Sisterhood of about thirteen Benedictine Nuns from Belgium, who continued to reside in it for twenty-six years. A corner of the orchard was their cemetery, and among the long green grass, and shaded by weeping willows, may still be seen the white wooden crosses which mark the last resting place of several of the inmates. I noticed the names of Catherine Macdonald, ob. Nov. 29, 1831, æt. 73; Frances S——, ob. 12 June, 1824, æt. 81; Sr. Lucy Magdalen Whitechurch, ob. Nov. 17, 1829, æt. 29; and Sr. Mary Magdalen Knight, 1825, æt. 36. A large marble slab notes the grave of Peter Collingridge, O.S.F., sometime Bp. of Thespis, who died in 1829. Since the period to which these memorials refer, the Society has removed to Rugeley, in Staffordshire, and the house is at length deserted and tenantless.

Such is the history of Canyngton Priory, from the day that the old noble founded the place for his soul's health, through ages of varying fortune, down to other and far worse times, when, under a hollow pretence of opposing superstition, sacrilegious hands took to themselves this and other Houses of God in possession. The scene, indeed, had little of the glories of Taunton or Muchelney, Montacute or Buckland. The income of the House amounted to little more than one-sixth of that even of the least wealthy of those great Communities. But, humble though it was, it did its work among the humanisers of the time. It was a school of graces, and for many ages a centre of all refined and refining influences.

The memory of its varied excellencies will suggest to honest and teachable minds the duty of looking justly, and therefore kindly and respectfully, on its efforts. Within the circuit of those grey enclosures, on which, when I last beheld them, the expiring rays of the evening sun were fading amid a silence and repose that deepened every moment, was a little world, far in advance of the great one outside, where earnest, truthful, and loving hearts were prompting hands to do their best towards the solace and enlightenment of all around. If an occasional cloud passed over and darkened for a few moments the sky, it only made more conspicuous the brightness which was its ordinary atmosphere. There human life went on, accompanied by much that raised and glorified it almost above humanity. In purity and truth the owners lived, and in faith and patience they laboured. And most happily for us—it is indeed one of the encouraging signs of the age—we are again beginning to appreciate the value of such an influence. We are again beginning to think that Woman is never greater, never nobler, never lovelier, than when employed in the Great Master's work, and aiding her sisters in the way to heaven. Mediaeval times had, in this point of view, an immense advantage over ourselves, which it is short-sighted and unworthy of us to overlook or disparage. Woman then found in countless instances that on which she might lavish the fondness of her boundless heart—that which she might love without weakness, shame, or sin—that on which all her ardent nature might pour itself out in the self-sacrificing devotion and unhesitating affection of which God has so blessedly made her capable. The writer is one who is of opinion, and he fears not to avow it, that the importance of this influence on the world at large cannot possibly be

overrated; and that much whereof we most bitterly complain, and which is most disgraceful to us as Christian men, would stand its best, perhaps its only, chance of removal by such gracious instrumentality. A whole world of devoted aid would thus be given to us, from which in our pride and conceit we have too long turned away, and, it may well be added, have obtained our reward in the misery and degradation of multitudes. With the revival of Woman's employment in sacred things we shall turn over a new leaf in our country's history, and our eyes will be gladdened, with a joy that shall be blighted by no after sorrow, as they rest upon a fairer, a happier, and a holier page.

THOMAS HUGO.

A P P E N D I X .

No. I.

[From Bp. Drokenesford's Register, f. lxxvjb.]

Absolue'o d'ni Joh'is de M'iet.

Me^d q'd d'ns absoluit d'nm Joh'm de Meriet milit' a sententia ex'cois quam in c'rit occ'one exent'ac'onis vx'is sue defuncte. iniuncta s' penitencia p' mod'o culpe salutari & cor vx' sue cu' corpore assignauit fore tumuland'. p' Pras Berengarii Ep'i Tusculani d'ni pp^e penitenciarij apud Woky v. kal'n April' anno d'ni m^o. ccc^{mo}. xiiij^o. Consecr' n're Quinto.

No. II.

[From Bp. Drokenesford's Register, f. cxlixb.]

Memorand' q'd d'ns scripsit Priorisse & monialib' dom' de Canynton sue dioc' q'd no' obstante inhibic'one eis f'ca gen'alit' recipiant d'nam Dyonis' Peu'el ad p'hendinand' in d'ca domo su'ptib' cu' suis p'p'is & ad voluntatem d'ni. S'b dat' apud Kyngesbiri viij k'ln Apl' anno d'ni m^o ccc^{mo} xiiij^o. Cons' v^o sue q'nto.

No. III.

[From Bp. Drokenesford's Register, f. lxxiijb.]

L'ra dir'ta p'orisse & con'tui de Cani'gton p' p'hendinaco'e mulier'.

J. p'm' &c. dil'eis filiab' d'nab' p'orisse & con. de Cani'gton salt'. P'eib' q'r'd' amicor' n'ror' nobiscu' i' isto solle'pni f'o existenc' annue'tes vt cu' Joh'es flychet sit ad p'tes aliq's p'eg'inat'ns vx' sua & due sorores ip'ius Joh'is bone conu'saco'is vt audiui'm' & honeste i' p'oratu v'ro int'im valeant p'hendinare. Hinc est q'd ista vice p'mittim' g'c'ose q'd d'eas vx' & sorores vsq' ad reditu' d'ci Joh'is p' mora vob'cu' facienda suis p'p'is su'ptib' potestis admitt'e du'tame' vob' placu'it advent' seu mora modica ear'd'. Adv'tentes insup' q'd p' ear' adventu' seu mora' ulla' alias v'l alios ad v'rm p'oratu' p' on'e dom' v're seu suspic'one sinist'a h'ere volum' accessu' quouismodo. Et si contig'it aliqua' muliere' seculare' p' n'ras l'ras moram fac'e vobiscu', nolum' q'd dom' vest'a p' eas, seu moram ear' i' aliquo on'et'r seu religioso q'd absit scandalu' paciat'r. Sc'pt' ap'd Wollan'iton. vj. kaln. Januar'.

No. III.*

[Inq. p.m. 6 Edw. III. (2 nos.) n. 94.]

Inq'sic'o capta cor' Esc' d'ni Reg' apud Som'ton die Jouis in cr'istino s'ci Martini anno regni Regis Edwardi t'cij post conquestu' sexto s'ed'm tenore' & forma' br'is d'ni Regis huic inquisico'i consuti p' sacr'm Joh'is Polker (?)
 Ric'i Horseye Will'i Chaundos Will'i Cordulkent Hugo's Brun Joh'is Stenyngg Joh'is le Riuer (?) Ric'i Dudbrok . . . Joh'is . . . & Will'mi Norman Qui dicu't p' sacr'm suu' q'd non e' ad dampnu' u' p'iudiciu' dni Reg' seu alior' Rob'to le fitz Payn q'd ip'e quat'viginti acr' terr' cu' p'tin' in Canynton & Radeweie dare possit & assignare Priorisse Canynton h'ndu' & tenendu' sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' quemda' capellanu' p' a'ia ip'ius Rob'ti & a'iab' antecessor' . . . o'm q' fideliu' defu'ctor' in eccl'ia de Cany'gton sing'lis dieb' celeb'aturum inp'petuu' Et die' q'd terra p'd'ca tenet'r de Rege in capite p' s'uiciu' militare et q'd valet p' an'u' in om'ib' exitib' iux' veru' valore' xxs Et q'd no' e' aliquis medius int' dn'm Rege' & p'd'em Rob'tum de terra p'd'ca Et q'd diu's terr' & ten' p'd'co Rob'to in Com' Som's' & Dors' q'

tenent^r de d'no Rege in capite p' s'uiciu' militare q' valent
 p'annu' in om'ib' exit'
 Jurati huic inq'sico'i sigilla sua apposu'nt.

No. IV.

[From Bp. Ralph's Register, f. cxlix.]

Rauf p' la seoffraunce de dieux Eueske de Baa & de Welles, a nos che's filles en dieux. . . . P'oresse & Couent de Kanyngton oue la beneson dieu & la n're salutz. Purceo nous auoms graunte. come en nous est. a nos che's en dieu Joh^ane Wason & Maud Poer. quelles oue deus dammoiselles. p' assent & volente de vous puissent demorer & sojourner (?) en vost^e maisone de Kanyngton. tanq' la Pask p'cheyn. a vener. issint q' lour demeore & sojourn ne soit a vous ne au dite maisone de rien damagouse p'judiciele ou deshoneste volomps q' si ensi soit les dites Joh^ane & Maud oue ses deus damoiseles reteniez a demorer & sojourner en v're maisone. en la fourme susdeite. A dieux q' touz iours vous doigne grace de bien faire. Don'a Bane-welle. le. xiiij. Jour Octobre.

No. IV.*

[Abstract of Reg. Rad. ccclxxxxviijb, ccclxxxviiij, ccclxxxviijb.
 MS. Harl. 6965, p. 243, 244]

Comperta in visitaco'e Priorisse & monialiū de Kanyngton. Queda' monialis de incontinentia sua increpata p' Priorissam, ut verbis suis utamur, dixit pro tantis excessibus se nolle semel dicere Mea culpa, sed eadem virago effecta contra Priorissam & alias sorores premissa detestantes, quando eam increpant, se velle cu' cultell' & alijs armis seviciam virilem in easde' exercere graviter comminatur. Et alia monialis — concubitui assueta, habens in utero — postmodu' edidit suu' partu'. — Ordinamus q'd d'ca (Johanna Trimelet) p' annu' continuum in una domo honesta infra scitum clausuram mon' v'ri maneat interclusa, secunda tertia & sexta feria jejundet in pane & aqua, suos calores macerans juveniles, & in alijs diebus

quibuscunq' p' d'cum tempus panem potagium & cervisiam pro suo victu tantummodo precipimus ministrari. — Extitit etiam in d'ca visitac'oe detectu' d'cam priorissā 4 mulieres pro quaru' qualibet pro 20 libr. in sororem d'ce domus recepissee, incidens matē in symoniacam pravitatem ad quam cetera crimina nichil extimantur. — Rigorem juris sub mansuetudine temp'antes, tibi (Priorissa) duas de sororibus tuis discret' & in temp'alibus circumspectas decernimus in administrac'oe temp'alium d'ce domus adjungend' , sine quaru' consilio & assensu earu' nihil facias, — &c.

No. V.

[Pat. 27 Edw. III. p. 3. m. 1.]

P' Priorissa & Con- R' om'ib' ad quos &c' salt'm
uentu de Canyngton' Licet &c de gr'a tamen n'ra sp'ali-
— concessim' & licenciam

dedim' p'nob' & heredib' n'ris quantu' in nob' est dil'co & fideli n'ro Joh'i de Chidiok' & Rob'to de Sambourn' q'd ip'i duodecim denaratas reddit' cu' p'tin' in Whytherigg' in Com' Deuon' & aduocac'oem eccl'ie eiusdem ville que de nob' non tenent' in capite vt dicit', dare possint & assignare dile'is nob' in X'po Priorisse & Conuentui de Canyngton' h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis imppetuu'. Et eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e redditu' p'd'e'm cum p'tin' & aduocaco'em p'd'cam a p'fatis Joh'e & Rob'to recip'e, & eccl'iam illam appropriare, & eam sic appropriatam in p'prios vsus simul cum redditu p'd'co tenere possint sibi & successorib' suis p'd'eis impetuu', tenore p'senciu' similis licenciam dedim' sp'alem, statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes q'd &c — seu grauent'. Saluis tamen capitalib' &c. — consuetis. T. R. apud Turrin London'. xxiiij. die Januar'. p'br'e de p'uato sig'.

No. VI.

[Inq. p.m. 44 Edw. III. (1. nrs.) n. 45.]

Inquis' capt' apud Ilmynstre in Com' Som's' coram Will'mo Cheyne Esc' d'ni Regis in eod'm Com' die martis

p'x' post f'm s'ce Margarete anno regni Reg' Edwardi t'eij a conq' quadragesimo quarto virtute br'is d'ni Regis huic inquis' consuti p' sacr'm Ade Swyf Will'i Hucker Will'i Moure Ric'i Cook Will'i Walround Will'i Dounh'm Will'i Sherf' Rob'ti Hare Thome Deme Laur' Wyly Rob'ti Dany & Thome Ansty qui dic' sup' ser'm suu' q'd Rog' Mounfort vtlag' nulla tenuit t'r' seu ten' in d'nico suo vt de feodo in com' pd'co die p'mulgac'onis vtlagarie sue seu postea de Rege in capite uel de aliquo alio die quo obiit set tamen tenuit vnu' corrodiu' ad t'm vite sue ex concessio'e Priorisse de Canyngton' apud Canyngton' quod val' p' annu' xls quod quide' corrodiu' vicecomites Som's' qui p' temp'e fuerint ad opus d'ni Reg' receperunt Et q'd id'm Rog' obiit in f'o corp'is X'pi anno d'ni Reg' nu'e xliij^{do} Et q'd null' he's ip'e Rog' h'uit p' ut istud requirit. In cui' rei testio'm p'd'ci Jur' sigill' sua apposuer' Dat' loco die & anno sup'd'eis.

NO. VII.

[Pat. 5 Ric. II. p. 2. m. 12.]

D' licencia dandi ad	R' om'ib' ad quos &c.	Salt'm
manu' mortuam.	Licet &c. tamen pro viginti	
	marcis quas dile'a nob' in	

X'po Priorissa de Canyngton nob' soluit in hanap'io n'ro concessimus & licenciam dedimus p' nob' & heredib' n'ris quantum in nob' est Mag'ro Rob'to Crosse p'sone eccl'ie de Spaxton' q'd ip'e sex mesuagia centum & nouem acras t're decem & octo acras p'ati cum p'tin' in Poulet dare possit & assignare p'fate Priorisse & Conuentui eiusdem loci h'end' & tenend' sibi & ear' successorib' ad inueniend' duos cereos vocatos Torches competentes & honestos, vnum videlicet ad dext'um cornu & vnum ad sinistrum cornu sum'i altaris in d'co Prioratu p' tempus & a tempore consecrac'ois corporis X'pi singulis dieb' ad missam de die in honore d'ci corporis vsq' ad finalem p'cepe'oem eiusdem corporis continue ardentes imp'p'm. Et eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e d'ca mesuagia t'ram & pratum cum p'tin' a p'fato Mag'ro Rob'to recip'e possint & tenere sibi & ear' successorib' ad inueniend' d'cos cereos in forma p'd'ca ardentes imp'p'm sicut p'd'cm est, tenore p'sencium similit' licenciam dedimus sp'alem

statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes q'd &c. — seu g^uent'. Saluis &c — consuetis. In cuius &c. T. R. apud Westm' xvj die Junij.

NO. VIII.

[Memorand. Scacc. 1 Hen. V., m. xiiij.]

Adhuc com'ia de t'mi'o sc'e Trinitatis anno sc'do
Regis Henrici Quinti
Adhuc Recorda.

Som's'

D' Priorissa de Canyngton p'munienda Comp'tum est p'
ad ostendend' quare ip'a de c'tis t'ris quandam Inquisi-
& tenementis in Pederdam & co'em captam apud
Combewysssh p' subtrac'one Stokvrey die lune
divini s'vicij d'no Regi in c'stino s'ce Trini-
computare non deb'. tatis anno regni Regis

Henrici quarti nup' Regis

Angl' post conquestum t'ciodecimo
coram Rob'to Veele tunc Esc' d'ei nup' Regis in Com'
Som's' virtute officij sui q'd d'ns de Coursy quondam
dedit Priorisse de Canyngton & successorib' suis c'ta t'ras
tenementa prata pascuas boscum & decimas garbar' &
minutas decimas residuas in Pederdam iuxta Combewyche
& in Combewyche ad inueniend' quendam capellanu'
idoneu' divina celebrantem imp'p'm ad orand' p' animab'
Regum Anglie & Successor' suor' videl't in capella s'ci
Leonardi apud Combewyche qual't alt'a die d'nica & quol't
alt'o duplici festo p' annu' & in capella S'ci Jacobi apud
Pederdam p'd'cam qual't alt'a die d'nica & quol't alt'o
duplici festo p' annu' et q'd p'd'ca Priorissa ad inueniend'
huiusmodi capellanu' celebrantem in d'ca capella S'ci
Jacobi apud Pederdam cessavit & se retraxit p' quinq'
annos iam elapsos p'x' ante capco'em d'ce Inquisic'ois &
q'd t're ten' prata pascua boscus & decime p'd'ca in Peder-
dam val' p' annu' quatuor marcas. Et in Combewyche val'
p' annu' x marc'. Et q'd Johanna nunc Priorissa de
Canyngton exitus & p'ficua inde p'cepit & p' idem tempus
h'uit usq' diem capco'is Inquisic'ois p'd'ce vnde eadem
Priorissa d'no Regi est responsura. Sup' quo concordatu'
est int' Barones q'd p'd'ca Priorissa de Canyngton

p'muniat^r p' br'e de Scire fac' essend' hic ad ostendend' & p'ponend' si quid p' se h'eat vel dic'e sciat quare ip'a de exit' & p'ficuis d'cor' t'rar' & ten' prator' pascuar' boscor' decimar' garbar' & minutar' decimar' residuar' in Pederdam iuxta Combewyche & in Combewyche cu' p'tin' in Com' p'd'co a tempore subtracco'is divini s'uicii p'd'ci ib'm hucusq' d'no Regi computare respondere & satisfac'e non deb'. Et p' s' vic' Som's' q'd p' p'bos &c. scire fac' &c. Ita &c. a die S'ci Mich'is in XV dies ad ostendend' &c. Ad quem diem vic' non retorn' br'e. I'o p's' ei sicut alias &c. Ita &c. In octab' S'ci Martini Ante quem diem p'd'ca Priorissa ven' p' Ric'm Hukelegh' attorn' suu' Et dicit q'd ex quo in p'd'ca Inquis' non est comp'tum quale nomen p'd'cus d'ns de Cursy h'uit nec que t're & ten' seu decime dat' fuerunt p'dict' p'decessori d'ce Priorisse & successor' suis nec q'd p'd'ca t're ten' & decime dat' fuerunt ante statutu' vel' post statutu' de t'ris & ten' ad manu' mortuam non ponend' editu' nec q'd d'ns Rex qui nunc est nec p'genitor' sui fuerunt fundatores eccl'ie sive prioratus de Canyngton p'dict' nec q'd idem d'ns Rex qui nunc est aut aliquis p'genitor' suor' dedit t'ras ten' & decimas p'dict' aut aliqua alia t'ras seu ten' p'd'ce Priorisse que nunc est aut alicui p'decessar' suar' Priorissar' eccl'ie sive prioratus p'd'car' vnde non intendit q'd d'ns Rex ip'am Priorissam inde velit impetire &c. et petit exon'ari v'sus d'nm Regem de exit' t'rar' & ten' p'd'cor' in d'ca Inquisic'oe specificat' Et quia videt' Baronib' huj' sc'cii q'd d'ca Inquis' non est sufficiens in lege ad ponend' d'cam Priorissam que nu'c est ad respondend' d'no Regi de t'ris & ten' & decimis p'd'cis nec ad seisiendu' t'ras & ten' & decimas p'd'ca in manu' d'ni Regis seu on'and' d'cam Priorissam de exit' eor'dem t'rar' & ten' Ideo considerat' est p' eosdem Barones q'd p'd'ca Priorissa eat inde sine die ob d'cas insufficiencias Inquisico'is p'd'ce.

No. IX.

[From Card. Pole's Pension-Book, f. xxix^{no}. Off. Augment.]

Cannyngton nup' Priorat' }	Ffeod'	{ Thome Hache capitl' sen ^{li} tocius nup' por' p'd' p' scriptu' abb'is et conven' }	xx ^s
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No. X.

[Off. Augment. Miscell. Voll., n. 244, n. 110.]

Rex om'ibus ad quos &c. salt'm. Cum nuper Prioratus de Cannyngton in Com' n'ro Som's' auctoritate parliamenti iam suppressus et dissolutus existit vnde quedam Cecilia Verney tempore dissolucio'is illius & diu antea Priorissa inde fuit Nos volentes r'onabilem annualem penco'em siue p'moco'em condignam eid'm Cecillie ad victum et exhibico'em suam melius sustinendi p'uideri. Sciatis igit' q'd nos in consideraco'e p'missor' de gra' n'ra sp'iali ac ex c'ta sciencia et mero motu n'ris p' aduisamentu' et consensum Cancellar' & Consilij Curie Augmentac'onu' revenco'nu' Corone n're dedim' et concessim' ac p' p'sentes dam' et concedim' eid'm Cecillie quand'am annuitatem siue annualem penco'em decem marcar' sterlingor'. h'end' gaudend' et annuatim p'cipiend' easdem decem marcas p'fat' Cecillie & assign' suis a tempore dissolucio'is et suppressionis d'ei nup' prioratus ad t'minu' & pro t'm'o vite ip'ius Cecillie tam p' manus Thesaurarij Curie n're p'd'ce pro tempore existen' de Thesauro n'ro in manibus suis de reuenco'ib' augmentac'onu' Corone n're remanere contingen' q'm p' manus Receptor' p'ticulariu' revenco'nu' p'd'car' de eisdem revenco'ib' ad festa Annu'ciacio'is b'e Marie Virginis & sc'i Mich'is Arch'i p' equales porco'es omi'o soluend'. Eo q'd exp'ssa mencio &c. In cui' rei &c. Test. xx^{mo} die Nouembr' a^o xxvij^{no} h vij^{ui}. Error.

No. XI.

[Off. Augment. Miscell. Voll., n. 205, f. 28.]

IN DECLARACO'E siue valor' Terr' & Tent' ib'm De anno R. Henrici vij^{ui} xxvij^{no} inter al' cont' ut sequit' Videl't.

PRIORAT'

de Cannyngton
in Com' Som's'

MANER' de Cannyngton	}	val' in	{	EXIT' Terr' dnic' ib'm p' annu' cum xxxij ^s vij ^d de Exit' xxvij acr' prat' sic arent' in gross' lix ^s de Exit' lix acr' t'r' arabil' & pas- tur' ad xij ^d le acr'	}	iiij ^{ld} xij ^s vij ^h
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CANYNGTON Rector' in Com' Som's	} val' in {	DECIM' Garb' Rector' ib'm cu' p'tin' iijs iiij ^d archud' de Taun- ton ex rector' de Canyngton	.. vij ^{ld} xv ^s iiij ^d cu' v ^s Ep'o sol' Bath &
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WETHERIGE in Com' Deuon'	} val' in {	DECIM' p'dial' cu' al' p'fic' Rector' ib'm	vij ^{ld}
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LIB' CAPELL' de Pedilwaldiston in Com' Dors'	} val' in {	QUADAM pore' decim' Garb' lane & al'	xl ^s cum iiij libr' Cere deliband' priori Eccl'ie X'pi in Com' Dors'.
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Sm^a xxj^{ld} vij^s xj^d
Ex^r p' Will'm Turno^r Audit' ib'm.

No. XII.

[From the Ministers' Accounts, 27-28 Hen. VIII. Off. Augment.]

(1.) SM^A TOT'LIS RE^{TE} xxxix^{ld} xij^s xj^d de quib' exon^r hic de xvij^{li} xv^s v^d ob' de firm' o'im p'miss' p' prima med' huius anni Eo q'd fuer' in man' & cultur' Cecilie Verney nup' prioriss' ib'm ad vsum et nece' sustent' hospic' s' p' idem tempus. ET DEBET xxj^{ld} xvij^s v^d ob'. De quib' allo^r ei de xlijs iiij^d p' penc' & com'ensal' vicar' ib'm celebrant' & administrant' cum xxxvj^s viij^d p' penc' s' p' vno q're anni finit' ad ff'm S'ci Mich'is Arch'i d'co anno xxvij^o iux^a ratam vij^{ld} vj^s viij^d p' annu' et cu' vj^s viij^d p' com'ens' s' a temp'e dissolue' priorat' ib'm hoc est a xxij^{cia} die Sept' vsq' d'em ff'm S'ci Mich'is tunc p'xim' sequen' scil't p' spac' iiij^{or} septim' iux^a rata' xx^d p' qual't septim'. ET EIDEM xvij^s iiij^d p' vad' & com'ens' vnus prisbit'i celebrant' apud Capell' de Comage infra p'och' de Cannyngton p'd'ca p' consili q're anni finit' ad p'd' ff'm S'ci Mich'is Arch'i cu' xij^s iiij^d p' vad' s' p' id'm tempus iux^a rat' lijs iiij^d p' annu' ——— et cum iiij^s p'

com'ens' s' p' d'cis iiij septim' iux^a rat' xij^d p' qual't septim' ——— ET LIB'AUIT Thome Arundell mi^{ti} Rec' Gen'al' de exit' firm' p'd' viij^{ld} xiiij^s ix^d ob. ET DEB'T x^{ld} ij^s.

(2.) SM^a ALLOC' P'DICT' xxx^s v^d ET DEB'T xli^{ld} iiij^s j^d D' quib' exo^r hic de xix^{ld} xvij^s iiij^d ob'. Vt de tot' Denar' p' p'd'cam Cecilia' Verney nup' prioriss' ib'm de Exit' Offic' p'd'ci p' prima me^{te} huius anni ad vsum hospic' s' recept' & expendit' in eod'm hospicio ante primu' aduent' Com'iss' d'ni R' illuc q^d erat xxvj^{to} die Maij d'co anno xxvij^{mo} ——— ET on'at' in comp'o d'ce prioriss' de vj^{ld} x^s j^d de consil'ib' denar' p' ip'am re^t de Exit' eiusd'm Offic' a d'co xxvj^{to} die Maij vsq' tempus dissoluc' d'ci priorat' q' erat xxij^o die Septembr' eod'm anno scil't p' spaciū xvij septiman' ex recognic' s' in libro re^{te} s' de eod'm temp'e ——— ET lib'auit Thome Arundell mi^{ti}. Rec' d'ci d'ni R' ib'm de Exit' firme p'd'ce ——— x^{ld} xvij^s v^d ET DEBET lxvij^s iiij^d ob'.

No. XIII.

[Abstract of Orig. 30 Hen. VIII. p. 2. r. ccxxxi.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Sciatis q'd nos de gra' ——— necnon in considerac'o'e boni veri & fidelis s'uicij quod dil'cus s'uiens n'r Edwardus Rogers ante hec tempora nob' fecit dedim' & concessim' &c eidem Edwardo totam domu' & scitum nup' Prioratus de Cannyngton in Com' n'ro Som's' auctoritate parliamenti supp'ssi & dissoluti ac totam eccl'iam campanile & cimiteriu' eiusdem nup' Prioratus. Necnon om'ia mesuag' domos edificia orrea stabula columbaria ortos pom'ia gardina t'ram & solum n'ra tam infra q'am ext^a ac iuxta seu p'pe scitum septum ambitum circuitum & p'cinctum eiusdem nup' Prioratus exist' ac totum man'ium n'rm de Cannyngton' & totam Rectoriam n'ram de Cannyngton' ac no'iac'oem & p'sentat' ad vicariam de Cannyngton' p'd'ca quandocumq' vacau'it cum eor' iurib' membris & p'tin' vniu'sis ——— ac om'ia mesuagia t'ras ten' molendina p'ata pascuas pasturas &c &c ——— p'ficua emolumenta n'ra quecumq' tam sp'ualia q'am temporalia cuiuscumq' sint gen'is ——— situat' iacen' vel existen' in Cannyngton' Powlett Stowey

& Efdyng in d'co Com' Som's' seu alibi vbicumq' eisdem man'io &c ——— p'tinen' ——— adeo plene & integre &c ——— Que quidem scitus man'iu' Rectoria &c sunt clari annui valoris quadraginta quinq' librar' octo solidor' & decem denarior'. H'end' tenend' &c p'fato Edwardo Rogers & hered' masculis de corpore suo legitime p'creatis Tenend' de nob' hered' &c in capite p' s'uiciu' militare videl't p' decimam partem vnus feodi milit' ac p' annualem redditum sexdecim librar' octo solidor' & decem denarior' ad Cur' n'ram Augmentacionu' &c ad festum S'ci Mich'is Arch'i soluend' ——— Et vlt'ius ——— concedim' p'fato Edwardo exitus &c a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'ito hucusq' p'uenien' &c. H'end' eid'm Edwardo ex dono n'ro absq' compoto seu aliquo alio p'inde nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris quoquo modo reddend' soluend' vel faciend' Eo q'd exp'ssa mencio &c. In cuius &c. T. R. apud Westm' viij die Maij.

No. XIV.

[Abstract of Orig. 34 Hen. VIII., p. 3, r. xxxii.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Cum nos p' quandam indenturam sub magno sigillo n'ro &c ——— geren' dat' apud Westm' decimo die Julij anno regni n'ri tricesimo t'cio tradidim' &c ——— Joh'i comiti Bathon' totam domu' & scitum nup' domus siue hospitalis S'ci Joh'is de Briggewater in Com' n'ro Som's' tunc dissolut' vna cum domib' edificijs &c infra scitum septum &c d'ce nuper domus &c ——— ac vnu' clausum pasture vocatum Le Hundred Acres cum p'tin' continen' p' estimaco'em octuaginta & quatuor acras vnu' aliud clausum pastur' vocatum Smale Crofte cum p'tin' continen' p' estimaco'em viginti quinq' acras que om'ia &c ——— vulgarit' nuncupat' Lez Demeane Landes d'ce nup' domus ——— H'end' & tenend' ——— p'fato Joh'i Comiti Bathon' & assign' suis a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i tunc p'x' sequen' vsq' ad finem t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti & vnus annor' extunc' p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' Reddend' inde annuatim nob' hered' & succ' n'ris octo libras tres solidos & sex denar' ad festa An'unciaco'is B'e Marie Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i ——— Cumq' eciam nos p' quandam aliam indenturam ——— int' nos ex vna parte &

Joh'em Ogan de hospicio n'ro ex alia parte gerent' dat' vicesimo t'eio die Octobris anno regn' n'ri tricesimo se'do int' alia tradiderim' concesserim' & ad firmam dimiserim' p'fato Joh'i Ogan grangiam de Barton alias diet' Blake-don' eum p'tin' in Com' p'd'eo nup' prioratui de Taunton in Com' n'ro Som's' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' vncum om'ib' domib' edificijs orreis columbar' ortis pomerijs & eidem grangie p'tinen' videl't vnu' pratum vocatum Barne-hayes continen' p' estimaco'em vnam acram vnu' pratum vocatum Parkemeade continen' p' estimaco'em duas acras ac terram siue pasturam vocatam Oldhayes alias Olde bares continen' p' estimaco'em tres acras vnam pasturam vocatam Le Orecheyarde continen' p' estimaco'em vnam acram ac terram siue pasturam vocatam Fflower continen' p' estimaco'em decem acras ac terram siue pasturam vocatam Le Twentie Acres Close continen' p' estimaco'em viginti acras vnu' clausum t're siue pasture vocat' Barne-hayes continen' p' estimaco'em quinq' acras vnu' clausum t're siue pasture vocatum Le Sevenacres Close continen' p' estimaco'em septem acras vnu' clausum t're siue pasture vocatum Woodcrofte continen' p' estimaco'em duodecim acras vnu' clausum t're siue pasture vocatum Laushere iacen' iuxta Spyding continen' p' estimaco'em duodecim acras ac vnu' clausum t're siue pasture continen' p' estimaco'em septem acras de Spryng ac vnam pastur' vocatam Kingesleasse continen' p' estimaco'em tresdecim acras ac vnam acram pasture iuxta Laushere continen' p' estimaco'em vnam acram & vnam pasturam vocat' Le Priours Parke necnon vnam pastur' in Lyng infra po'chiam de Lyng in d'eo Com' n'ro Som's' in tenura Thome Blansheflower & Will' Blansheflower ac om'es t'ras in Pytmyster in Com' p'd'eo in tenura Ric'i Mylbury ac om'es t'ras in Pytmyster p'diet' in tenura Thome Spryng d'ce grangie spectan' & p'tinen'. Cumq' eciam vlt'ius p' eandem indentur' tradiderim' &c — p'fato Joh'i Ogan totam Rectoriam & capellam de Corff & Pytmyster in d'eo Com' n'ro Som's' d'eo nup' prioratui dudu' spectan' & p'tinen' & om'es & om'imod' decimas garbar' penco'es porco'es ac om'ia alia p'ficua quecunq' eidem Rectorie & Capelle de Corff & Pytmyster seu ear' alt'e ab antiquo spectan' siue p'tinen'. H'end' & tenend' — p'fato Joh'i Ogan &c — a festo S'ei Mich'is Arch'i tunc vltimo p'terito vsq' ad finem

t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti & vnus annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend'. Reddend' annuatim nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris p' p'd'ca grangia de Barton alias dict' Blakedon ac p'd'cis t'ris &c ——— centum solidos Et p' p'd'cis decimis & alijs p'ficuis Rector' & Capella de Pytmyster & Corff' p'dict' octo libras & septem solid' ad fest' An'unciaco'is B'e Mar' Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vel infra vnum mensem — soluend' — Cumq' eciam nos p' quandam aliam indenturam ——— int' nos ex vna parte & Jacobum Dyer geno'sum ex alia parte gerent' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo nono die Decembr' anno regni n'ri tricesimo primo tradiderim' &c. — p'fato Jacobo Dyer Rectoriam de Trull cum suis iurib' & p'tinen' vniu'sis in Com' n'ro Som's' nup' prioratui de Taunton in eodem Com' dudum spectan' & p'tin' vnacum om'ib' & om'imod' decimis garbar' lane & agnellor' &c ——— except' tamen ——— om'ib' illis decimis garbar' de Hamewoode & Sernehaye p'cell' d'ce Rectorie de Trull que Joh'i Smyth p' copiam Cur' dimittit' H'end' & tenend' Rectoriam p'd'cam &c — a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i tunc vltimo p'terito vsq' ad finem t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti vnus annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' Reddend' inde annuatim nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris octo libras legalis monete Anglie ad festa Annunciaco'is B'e Marie Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i &c soluend' ——— Cumq' eciam nos p' quandam aliam indenturam sub sigillo &c int' nos ex vna parte & Joh'em Luttrell de Dunster in Com' Som's' ex alt'a parte geren' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo octauo die Octobr' anno regni n'ri tricesimo primo int' alia tradiderim' &c. p'fato Joh'i Luttrell seitum nup' domus siue prioratus vel celle de Dunster in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' tunc dissolut' &c ac om'ia t'ras &c vocat' Wagland cum p'tin' & vnu' clausum pasture subtus le Conygre &c &c nup' prioratui de Dunster spectan' &c a festo S'ci Mich'is vltimo p't'ito vsq' ad finem t'mini &c viginti & vnus annor' — Reddend' inde annuatim nobis &c septuaginta tres solidos & quatuor denar' ad festa B'e Marie Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i &c soluend' ——— Cumq' eciam ——— Myddelcote ——— Northcote prioratui de Pilton spectan' ——— Le Graye Ffreers iuxta civitatem Exon' &c ——— ——— Sciatis q'd nos p' sum'a noningentar' sexaginta duar' librar' septemdecim solidor' & quatuor denar' legalis

monete Anglie ——— p' dile'm subditum n'rm Humfr'm Colles gen'osum solut' ——— dedim' & concessim' &c p'fato Humfr'o Colles ren'co'em o'im & singulor' p'dcor' domus ——— Bryggewater — Barton — Corff — Pytmyster — Trull — Dunster — Northcote — Middlecote — Greyfreres — Cathanger in p'och' de Stogursey nup' prioratui de Barliche dudum spectan' ——— neenon om'ia & singul' mesuagia t'ras ten'ta &c in p'ochia de Goodley in Com' n'ro Deuon' ac nup' prioratui de Cannyngton in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' Neenon ——— scitum prioratus de Bathe ——— Lyncombe Wydcome &c — Combe — Cote — Syon in Com' Midd' — Martok — London — Dam' &c p'fato Humfr'o Colles om'es illos boscos n'ros in Priours Parke spersim crescen' & continen' p' estimaco'em viginti acras in p'ochia de Pytmyster Corff Trull & Orcharde p'diet' d'co monast'io de Taunton dudum spectan' ——— Neenon totum illum boscum n'rm vocatum Ffoxegrove continen' p' estimaco'em decem acras in p'ochia de Dunster ——— Aceciam totum illum boscum n'rm vocatum Cathanger Grove continen' p' estimaco'em quatuor acras & dimid' in p'ochia de Stogursey et prioratui de Barliche dudum spectan' ——— Neenon totum illum boscum siue grovam n'ram vocatam Le Parke continen' p' estimaco'em decem acras in Bromefelde in p'ochia de Estbuckelande nup' prioratui de Pilton dudum spectan' ——— Aceciam totam illam copiciam bosci n'ri vocatam Le Lyttlecops continen' p' estimaco'em sex acras in p'ochia de Estbuckelande nup' prioratui de Pilton dudum spectan' ——— Dam' eciam p'fato Humfr'o Colles advocaco'es p'sentaco'es &c de Corff Pytmyster & Trull nup' monast'io de Taunton dudum spectan' ——— Quequidem ten'ta &c prioratui de Barliche spectan' extendunt' ad clar' annuu' valorem quadraginta solidor' ——— prioratui de Cannyngton centum sex solidor' ——— celle de Pilton &c quatuor librar' & vnus obuli ——— Greyfreeres &c quadraginta solidor' ——— Tenend' de nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris in capite p' s'uiciu' quadragesime p'tis vnus feodi militis ac reddend' annuatim nob' &c p' Cathanger quatuor solidos ——— p' priorat' Bridgewater &c sexdecim solidos & quatuor denar' & vnu' quadrantem ——— p' mesuagijs &c prioratui de Cannyngton p'tinen' decem solidos & septem denar' & vnu' quadrantem ——— p' grangia de

Barton &c decem solidos ——— p' Rector' & Capella de Corff & Pytmyster &c sexdecim solidos octo denar' & vnu' obulum ——— p' Trull &c duos solidos & octo denar' ——— p' Dunster &c septem solidos & quatuor denar' ——— p' Estbuckelande octo solidos & vnu' quadrantem ——— p' Exon' quatuor solidos ——— p' Bathe octo solidos & quatuor denar' ——— p' Martok sex solidos vnu' denar' vnu' obulum & vnu' quadrantem ——— p' London duodecim solidos ——— ad Cur' n'ram Augment' ad festum S'ci Mich'is Archi singulis annis soluend' ——— Et ult'ius acquietabim' &c. Humfr'o Colles hered' &c de om'ib' corrodijs redditib' feod' annuitatib' &c. p'terq'm de sep'alib' redditib' &c nob' res'uat' ac p'terq'm de sex libris tresdecim solidis & quatuor denarijs annuatim solutis capellano divina celebranda [celebranti] in Eccl'ia de Trull p'dict' p' stipendio suo ——— Et ult'ius dam' p'fato Humfr'o Colles om'ia exitus &c a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p'terito hucusq' p'uenien' ——— Accciam volum' & concedim' p'fato Humfr'o Colles q'd h'eat has l'ras patentes &c absq' fine seu feodo magno vel p'uo ——— In cuius rei &c T. R. apud Westm' xvj die Marcij.

No. XV.

[Abstract of Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 6, r. xx.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. sal'tm. Cum nos p' l'ras n'ras patentes sub magno sigillo Cur' Augment' ——— sigillat' geren' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo die Maij anno regni n'ri vicesimo octauo ——— tradiderim' concesserim' & ad firmam dimiserim' dil'co nob' Edwardo Rogers gen'oso totam illam Rectoriam n'ram de Wytherygge in Com' n'ro Deuon' nup' prioratui de Cannyngton' in Com' n'ro Som's' modo dissolut' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' Acetiam om'ia & singula decimas garbar' feni agnor' oblacionu' p'fic' & emolument' quor'cumq' d'ce Rectorie p'tinen' siue spectan' H'end' & tenend' p'd'cam Rectoriam decimas &c. p'fato Edwardo Rogers & assignat' suis p' t'mino viginti vnus annor' Reddend' inde annuatim nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris septem libras legalis monete Angl' ——— Sciatis q'd nos p' sum'a trescentar' vnus librar' & septem solidor'

ad manus Thesaurar' &c. p' dil'cos nob' Georgiu' Heydon gen'osum & Hugonem Stucley armig'um solut' ——— dedim' & concessim' — p'fato Georgio & Hugoni reu'sionem ——— tocius d'ce Rectorie de Wytherygge in d'co Com' n'ro Deuon' & o'im & singulor' decimar' &c. d'ce Rectorie p'tinen' siue spectan'. Necnon dam' & concedim' eidem Georgio Heydon & Hugoni Stucley totum domu' & scitum nuncupat' Lez Grayfreres infra Lewes in Com' Sussex ——— Necnon om'ia illa tria cotagia siue ten'ta n'ra cum suis p'tinen' iacen' & existen' in Wytherygge p'diet' in d'co Com' n'ro Deuon' de'o nup' prioratui de Cannington' in Com' n'ro Som's' modo' dissolut' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' ——— Ac eciam aduocaco'em donaco'em &c. vicarie & eccl'ie de Wytherygge p'diet' — Necnon mesuagiu' in Rollesclyff in parochia de Brodeclyst alias Brodeclyff nup' Prioratui S'ci Nich'i Exon' ——— spectan' ——— Ac totum illud mesuagiu' n'r'm vocat' Saltmayde in parochia de Clyff S'ci Georgij in Com' n'ro Deuon' nup' Prioratui S'ci Nich'i Exon' dudum spectan' &c. ——— Exceptis om'ib' alijs aduocac'oib' &c — eciam om'ib' & singulis campanis plumbo campanar' metall' ferro eccl'ia campanile capellis claustr' & dortur' &c. ——— Que quidem domus siue scitus nuncupat' Lez Grayfreres &c extendunt' ad clarum annuu' valorem sexdecim solidor' & octo denarior'. Ac que quidem Rectoria de Wytherygge ac cet'a p'missa p'cella possessionu' d'ci nup' prioratus de Cannynghon' modo extendunt' ad clarum annuu' valorem nouem librar' duor' solidor' et quatuor' denarior'. Ac que quidem mesuagia &c. prioratus S'ci Nich'i Exon' modo extendunt' ad clarum annuu' valorem quatuor librar' tresdecim solidor' & quatuor denarior' ——— Tenend' de nobis hered' & successorib' n'ris in capite p' s'uiciu' vicesime partis vnus feodi militis. Ac reddend' inde annuatim nob' &c de & pro Grayfreres viginti denarios. Et de & pro Rectoria de Wytherygge & trib' cotagijs — octodecim solidos & tres denarios. Et de & pro mesuagio &c. S'ci Nich'i Exon' nouem solidos' & quatuor denarios' legal' mon' Angl' ad Cur' n'ram Augmentacionu' &c. ad festum S'ci Mich'is Arch'i singulis annis soluend' ——— Et vlt'ius dam' &c. Georgio Heydon & Hugoni Stucley om'ia exitus redditus &c. a f'festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'ito hucusq' p'ueniend' &c. Volum' &c. q'd h'cant has l'ras n'ras

patentes sub magno sigillo — absq' fine seu feod' magno vel paruo reddend' vel soluend' &c. In cuius rei &c. T. R. apud Westm'. xiiij die Junij.

No. XVI.

[Abstract of Orig. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 3, r. ix.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Cum nos p' l'ras paten' sub magno sigillo n'ro Angl' confect' geren' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo primo die Ffebruarij anno regni n'ri tricesimo sc'do — dederim' & concesserim' Edwardo Rogers man'ium de Radway Ffytzpayn cum suis membris &c — nup' p'cell' possessionu' Henrici nup' marchionis Exon' de alt' p'dico'e attinet' — h'end' & tenend' p'fat' Edwardo Rogers p' t'mino vite sue — Cumq' eciam nos p' quasdam alias l'ras n'ras paten' — quar' dat' fuit apud Westm' decimo septimo die Marcij anno regni n'ri tricesimo sc'do — concesserim' &c p'fat' Edwardo tot' hundred' n'rm de Cannyngham cum p'tin' in Com' Som's' ac om'ia & om'imod' reddit' &c. — que om'ia & singula nup' antea fuerunt p'cell' t'rar' &c. Henrici nup' marchionis Exon' attinet' — h'end' &c. p'fat' Edwardo Rogers execut' & assign' suis a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p'tito — vsq' ad finem & terminu' viginti & vnus annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' reddendo inde annuatim nobis &c. septem libras quinq' solidos vnu' obulum & vnu' quadrantem ad festum S'ci Mich'is Arch'i tantum — Sciatis igit' q'd nos — dedim' &c. p'fato Edwardo Rogers tot' diet' man'iu' de Radwaye Ffytzpayne cum suis membris &c. necnon p'dc'm hundr'm n'rm de Cannyngham cum om'ib' & singulis suis p'tin' — Que quidem man'iu' de Radwaye Ffytzpayne &c. extendunt' ad clar' annuu' valorem viginti sex librar' vndecim denar' & vnus obuli Et quod quidem hundr'm de Cannyngham &c. modo extendunt' ad clar' annuu' valorem septem librar' quinq' solidor' & vnus obuli. H'end' &c. p'dc'm man'ium de Radwaye Ffytzpayne — & p'dc'm hundr'm n'rm de Cannyngham cum om'ib' & singulis p'tin' suis — p'fat' Edwardo Rogers & hered' masculis de corpore suo legitime p'creatis Tenend' de nob' &c. in

capite p' s'uic' vicesime p'tis vnus feod' milit' p' om'ib' s'uicijis — soluend' Et insup' cum nos p' quandam indentur' &c dat' apud Westm' vicesimo die Marcij anno regni n'ri vicesimo octauo — tradiderim' &c p'fato Edwardo Rogers de hospicio n'ro armig' — lib'am capellam de Pyddelwaldestone in Com' n'ro Dors' nup' prioratui de Cannyngton spectan' &c vna cu' om'ib' decimis oblaco'ib' p'ficiis & emolument' quibuscumq' eidem capelle p'tinen' — a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p'tit' vsq' ad finem t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti & vnus annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' reddendo inde annuatim nob' hered' &c quadraginta solid' ad fest' Annunc'o'is B'e Marie Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i — soluend' Nos volentes &c. dam' &c p'fato Edwardo d'cam lib'am capellam de Peddylwaldestone &c. — Que quidem capella &c extendunt' ad clar' annuu' valorem quadragint' solid' H'end' &c p'fato Edwardo Rogers & hered' masculis de corpore suo legitime p'creat' Tenend' nob' &c p' fidelit' tantum in lib'o socagio & non in capite ac reddendo inde annuatim nob' &c quatuor solid' legalis monet' Angl' ad Cur' Augment' &c. ad festum S'ci Mich'is singulis annis soluend' — Et dam' p'fato Edwardo om'ia reddit' &c a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'ito — absq' fine seu feod' magno vel p'uo In cuius rei &c. T. R. apud Tychefelde t'cio die Augusti.

T. H.

Dunstan at Glastonbury.

BY THE REV. J. R. GREEN, M.A.

DUNSTAN and Alfred are the two great names of our history before the Conquest, and both names are closely linked with the traditions of Somerset. The peasant of Taunton Dean commemorates in his "ashen-fagot ball" the delight with which Alfred's men, coming up cold and hungry through the night to the gathering before Ethandun, clustered round the camp fires of ashen logs;* and the turf-digger of the marshes of the Axe tells the tale of Dunstan's interview with the Devil. When we pass, however, from tradition to history, there is a marked difference between our knowledge of the one great Englishman and of the other. It is impossible to define the exact relation of Alfred to the political system with which his name is associated, or to rely on the poetic legends of the wanderer in the hut of the cow-herd, or the harper in the camp of the Danes. But whether as man or as statesman, Dunstan is perfectly real to us. The ecclesiastical policy which covered England with countless religious houses, all looking back to his cœnobium at Glastonbury as their

* Trans. Som. Arch. Soc., 1849, p. 37.

fount, was only swept away at the Reformation. The secular policy by which the great minister strove, however prematurely, to combine national unity with the utmost provincial liberty, has left its traces in the real oneness and as real hatred of centralization of the England of to-day. Dunstan is remarkable as the first of that great line of ecclesiastical statesmen who counted among them Lanfranc and Wolsey, and ended in Laud. But he is still more remarkable in himself, in his own vivid personality after eight centuries of revolution and change. In the dim hazy light of our early national history Dunstan stands out perfectly human and real.

The restriction of this paper to his life at Glastonbury prevents me from entering here on many questions of great interest, which have, I think, been as yet insufficiently appreciated in their bearing on his general history. Prominent among these is the contrast between the tone of the English chroniclers, with whom Eadgar is all and Dunstan nothing, and that of the monastic biographers, with whom Dunstan is all and Eadgar a reckless voluptuary. Or, again ; something might be gained from a critical comparison of the various chronicles commonly blended under the name of the English (or Anglo-Saxon) Chronicle. The only one of them that gives any full notices of him is that which originated in Canterbury itself.* One question indeed, on which the

* *B* (Cott. Tib., A. vi.) only once mentions him : 977 Trans. of Bp. Sideman.

C (Cott. Tib., B. i.) „ twice : 1. Same entry in same words.
2. Death in 988.

D (Cott. Tib., B. iv.) „ thrice : 1. ‘ Driven beyond sea,’ 957.
2. Council at Calne, 978.
3. Death, 988.

E (Bodl., 636.) „ thrice : 1. Consecrates Ethelwold, 963.
2. Calne, 978.
3. Death, 988.

whole character of his life depends, I shall be compelled to notice here, I mean the strange fortune by which a false biography of the man has been almost universally substituted for the true. But I shall only rectify this error here in so far as it affects our Somerset Dunstan, not Dunstan the statesman, the primate, the reformer, but Dunstan the boy, the monk, the abbot of our Somerset Glastonbury.

Dismissing the later hagiographies, the life, by William of Malmesbury (as yet unpublished, but of whose character we can judge from his copious notices in the *Gesta Regum* etc), the metrical compilation of Adalard, and the fragment by Osbert or Eadmer, all mere copies of their predecessors, but enlarged by the admission of the worthless traditions of Glastonbury, there are but two biographies of historic importance. The first is that of a priest, who has left us but his initial "B," but whom (adopting Mabillon's conjecture), we may call Bridferth of Ramsey. It is dedicated to Dunstan's scholar, Archbishop Ælfrie, and is the work of a contemporary and acquaintance of the subject of its biography. It professes to be drawn partly from personal observation, partly from information supplied by Dunstan himself, partly from the reminiscences

F (Cott. Dom. A. viii.) ,, eight: 1. Birth, 925.

2. Gift of Glastonbury, 943.

3. Banished, 955.

4. Return, 959.

5. Archbp., 961.

6. Calne, 978.

7. Trans. King Eadward, 980.

(*D* and *E* mention this, but omit mention of Dunstan.)

8. Death, 988.

I have compiled this from Thorpe's Edition. A's (C.C. C. 173) entries are but insertions from *F*. *F* is supposed to have been compiled at Canterbury.

of his scholars.* Its style, verbose, inflated, laden with texts of Scripture, is the style of its day, but its inner truthfulness and simplicity is its own. No Dunstan is more unlike the conventional Dunstan than the Dunstan of Bridferth's biography. Very silent about miracles, unacquainted with the anchorite's cell or the visits of Satan, the writer pictures simply enough a quiet Englishman, versatile, accomplished, kindly-hearted, waiting for the call which he knew must come, and the work which he knew he had to do, as quietly as Cromwell waited for his work by the banks of the Ouse.

The conventional Dunstan did not appear for nearly a century after Bridferth. On the destruction of the records and MSS of Canterbury by the great fire which destroyed the Cathedral in 1070, Osbern, Precentor and Sub-prior, a man of great literary note in his day,† was commissioned by the convent to supply, in Dunstan's case, the loss. He had before him, he tells us, two classes of biographies, the one (probably the metrical compilation from B by Adalard) written "with plenty of elegance but with little diligence," the other (no doubt that of Bridferth himself) "with plenty of diligence but with little elegance." Osbern determined to combine the merits of both, but his diligence and his elegance were alike fatal to Dunstan. The first shewed itself in the large additions now made to his biography. Partly, these were due to a third class of lives which, he asserts, had perished in the fire, but fragments of which

* "Quæ vel videndo vel audiendo ab ipso didicerat vel etiam ex ejus alumnis quos a tenellâ juventutis ætate ad viros usque perfectos doctrinarum pabulis decenter instructos ipsemet educandos deduxit" (B in præfat.) And in relating his death "Arbitror æquum esse ut ea quæ vel egomet vidi vel audiui pro posse caritatis enodem."

† "Osbernus, qui ejus vitam Romanâ elegantîâ composuit, nulli nostro tempore stylo secundus." W. Malin. *gest. Reg. lib ii.*, sec. 149 Hardy.

remained "in an English version." But, whatsoever be the truth of this, the bulk of his additions can be clearly traced to another source. In the interval between Bridferth and Osbern the monks of Glastonbury had spared neither pains nor invention in providing legends and relics of the greatest of their Abbots. Osbern* had visited the sacred spot, had seen the saint's work-cell, had handled (he boasts) the very products of his craft, had bedewed them with his tears, and adored them on bended knees. Around them clustered a jungle of myths as baseless as the contemporary myths of the same great Abbey about Joseph of Arimathea. It was easy, however, for the "elegance" of Osbern to throw them into shape, and the biography which resulted soon drove the simpler tale of Bridferth from the field. Nor even now is it possible, even while irritated by the carelessness of his copying, his indifference to chronology, his unscrupulous emendations and transpositions of the authority which he follows, to refrain from admiring the rare dramatic faculty with which Osbern has succeeded in blending these discordant accounts together, and creating out of them the weird demoniac Dunstan who is so familiar to all of us.

But though familiar he is not very intelligible. This poetic creation of a Canterbury monk of the eleventh century has sadly puzzled the historian and biographer of the nineteenth. The latest biography is that by Dean Hook, and is an honest attempt to do justice to the great minister. But it is almost amusing to see the Dean's

* Osbern. sec. 13. "Miseram me ac peccatorem fateor inspexisse, sanctum sessionis ipsius locum vidisse, quædam etiam manuum illius opera peccatibus manibus contrectasse, oculis apposuisse, rigasse lacrymis, et flexis genibus adorasse." Immediately before this comes the story of the "Destina or work-cell," immediately after it the interview with the Devil.

efforts to bring his vigorous common sense to bear on this imaginary Dunstan. In successive pages he appears as an "able statesman," as a "bold reformer," as "frenzied," as "partially insane," a "delirious dreamer," a "monomaniac," a "ventriloquist." But with this wealth of resources for explanation the Dean leaves him a puzzle after all. For, as the world is at present constituted, it is not by ventriloquism or monomania that men are enabled to do what Dunstan undoubtedly did, to revive religion and learning over the length and breadth of the land, and to hold together for half a century a monarchy which, in its artificial structure and balanced policy, contained within it the seeds of its own decay.

To render him intelligible we have but to recur to Bridferth's biography, and to view the Dunstan he depicts for us in connection with his country and his time. We claim him as a Somerset man, but we must not confound the Somerset of the tenth century with the Somerset of to-day. In the forest near Malmesbury and the masses of wood beneath the edge of the chalk downs of Wilts still linger the scanty remains of the great forest which, bent like a bow from Severn to Selwood, must have greatly narrowed Somerset to the north-east and the north; westward, its boundary was the Parrett; the Bryt-welch wandered either free, or as nominal tributaries from Quantock to Exeter; and Glastonbury in Dunstan's day was still "in West-Saxonum Finibus."* The little vill marked a stage in the long history of the West-Saxon Conquest, a history very difficult to follow in the meagre notices of the national chronicle. The Conquest was protracted through a century and a half by the external and

* Bridferth. cap. 1., sec. 8.

internal hindrances of the conquerors, by endless wars with Sussex, by a life and death struggle with Mercia. An interval of eight years of inaction separates the victory at Deorham, which made Ceawlin master of Bath, from the victory at Bradford, when under Kenwalch the invaders overspread the country north of Mendip. A second campaign, three years later, ending in the victory at "Peonna" on the skirts of the great forest that covered Somerset to the east, settled the conquerors round the sources of the Parrett. Then followed a lull of a quarter of a century, ere Kentwine swept down the vale of Avalon to "drive the Britons to the sea," and Ini pushing his way southward round the marshes of the Parrett to the aid of his kinsman Nun against the Welch prince Geraint, guarded the frontier of the new conquests by his wooden fort on the banks of the Tone,* and established beneath the heights of the Tor his "cænobium" of Glastonbury. This protracted Conquest was the root of the after supremacy of Wessex. Long after external aggrandisement had ceased elsewhere, while the other English kingdoms were wasting their strength in inter-necine wars, Wessex had new march lands to share among his victorious soldiers. Each successive wave of invasion has left its mark in the local names of the district over which it passed, and the varying proportion of these to the Celtic or other non-English names around them throws a little light on the character of the Conquest. We may take as a rough index the well-known English termination "ton." North of Mendip this bears to all other names the proportion of about one third; between Mendip and the Parrett of a fourth. Across the Parrett, but east of the road from Watchet to

* Our Taunton.

Wellington it decreases to a fifth, and west-ward of this it becomes rapidly rarer and bears only the proportion (in different districts) of an eight or tenth. The "tons" and "hams" of the settlers were the seedplots of a new life before which the old Romanized Somerset was passing away. The new settlers left the towns to themselves, and toiled among their British serfs at husbandry as heartily as they had toiled at war. No picture better illustrates the life of the early English settler than that of the Iclander in the Saga of Burnt Njal, sowing the seed with one hand and holding his bare sword with the other. Irish pilgrims wandered from hamlet to hamlet, and the gypsy-like court of the king settled at vill after vill till the beeves were all slaughtered, and the mead-pitchers empty. Meanwhile the great towns, the villas, the industrial works of the Roman æra fell, unheeded, into decay. Bath was dwindling away, though still great enough for the coronation of a king. The peasant toiled among the ruins of Ilchester, the curious legend of the birds and the blazing brands which probably illustrates the mode of its capture. Bristol was not as yet, and not a town rose among the villages and hamlets between Bath and Exeter. The country houses of the great provincials, which had studded so thickly the face of the country lay burnt or in decay. The mines of Mendip and Brendon, whence their wealth had been drawn, were abandoned or forgotten. The sea burst again through the neglected barriers, and the Tor rose like an island out of a waste of flood-drowned fen and marsh that stretched westward to the channel.

From one of these English families who had chosen it as their settlement the little hamlet at its base took its name

of Glastonbury, the borough of the Glœstingas.* It was already a place of pilgrimage. The first inhabitants of Ini's cœnobium found, as they alleged, "an ancient church built by no art of man," and to this (probably some deserted Roman villa) they added an oratory of stone. It was doubtless the only church in the district, and hence was crowded with worshippers from the neighbourhood.† The cœnobium lay on the border of the estate of Heorstan,‡ the husband of Cynedridis. Both are asserted by Osbern to have been of royal blood; they were certainly well-connected. One brother, Athelm, the first of the Bishops of Wells, became Plegmund's successor in the see of Canterbury; another brother, Elfege, was Bishop of Winchester; Kinesige, the Bishop of Lichfield, is mentioned incidentally as a kinsman. Heorstan was at any rate a Thane of some wealth, a man of piety as the times went, and fond of joining the pilgrims as they passed by, taper in hand, to the adjacent shrine. On one of these occasions his boy, Dunstan, accompanied him to share his nocturnal vigils, and the early biographer tells a charmingly natural tale|| how, while his parents watched, the weary child fell into a pleasant sleep, and woke to tell his dream of an old man, clad in white, who had led him through ever-lengthening aisle and cloister of church and cell. Dreams of this kind

* So Kemole. Saxons in England, vol. i. Appendix. But "*antiquo vicinorum vocabulo Glastonia noncupata.*" B. sec. 3.

† In ea siquidem ipsius loca primi Catholicæ legis neophyti antiquam Deo dictante reppererunt ecclesiam nullâ hœminum arte constructam . . . huic etiam aliud addiderunt opere lapideum oratorium quod Christo ejusque Apostolo, S. Petro, dedicaverunt. Porro dehinc universorum circumquaque fidelium frequentia colebat, et jam dictæ insulæ pretiosum locum humiliter frequentabat. B. sec. 3.

‡ Erat quœdam regalis in confinio ejusdem viri insula. B. sec. 3.

|| B. sec. 3. Osbern's expansion of this is a fair specimen of his workmanship. Osbern. sec. 3.

are the heritage of childhood, but it was easy for Dunstan living, like Warren Hastings, to realize in stone and mortar the fancies of his youth, to look on them as revelations from heaven. This is the only incident of his childhood recorded by either biographer ; but we glean in the progress of his story a few details which give us a hint of his home. It must have been in his father's hall that the fair, diminutive boy* with his scant, but beautiful hair† caught his charm over animals,‡ his love for the "vain songs of ancient heathendom, the trifling legends, and the funeral chaunts,"|| which afterwards roused against him the charge of sorcery. Thence, too, from the practice, as we see it in the story of Cædmon, of passing the harp round the hall from one reveller's hand to another, he may have derived his passionate love of music and his "custom"§ of carrying his harp in his hand on journey or visit. His parents fade from sight as they lead him to school, but they lived long in the heart of Dunstan. Years after, amid other celestial revelations, he told of a vision of Heorstan and Cynedridis among a company of angelic spirits.¶

Neighbours were not the only pilgrims to the Church of Christ and St. Peter. It became the centre of the religion of the West, and even the great Athelstan himself came thither to pray and carouse. None held it in greater honour than the wandering scholars, the "peregrini" of Ireland. From the 6th century to the 8th the Irish had been the great missionaries of Christianity ; from the 9th

* "Quantitate quidem corporis parvulum." Osbern. 3.

† "Tenui sed formosâ caesarie erat." Osbern. 14.

‡ See story postea. B. 6.

|| Charges of his enemies, postea. B. 6.

§ "Sumpsit secum ex more citharam suam quam linguâ paterna 'bearpam' vocamus." B. 12.

¶ Osbern, Sec. 1.

to the 11th, precisely when all learning threatened to become extinguished, they were the missionaries of knowledge.* A tradition of its having been the resting-place of a Patrick the Younger made Glastonbury the resort of the "Hiberniensium peregrini," who left here, as along the Rhine or the Danube, their "books," to be hereafter diligently studied by Dunstan.† To the cœnobium, whose library was thus enriched, he was now brought for education by his parents. It is pleasant to think how little change time can have made in the natural features of the scene on which he must have gazed—the great moor, the islet-hills dotting it, the cliff-like mass of Mendip in the distance. It was a time of profound peace for the West during the youth of Dunstan; the war under Eadward and his sister of Mercia rolled stubbornly northward, the solitary descent of the Danes upon Watchet was repulsed, and it was only in the dawn of the youth's manhood that the slender, golden-haired Athelstan swept by to drive the Brit-Welch from Exeter. But the traditions of the death-struggle with the Danes must have been fresh in the minds of all; Heorstan may have been one of the men of Somerset who gathered to Alfred at Selwood; Athelney, where the King lurked, lay but a few miles off across Polden; and Wedmore, where Guthrum's chrysmal-fillet was unbound lay below in the marshes. Amid these scenes and traditions the boy who was to carry on and complete the

* Ozanam, *Civilization chez les Francs*, i. 102.

† B. 5. "Porro Hiberniensium peregrini locum quem dixi Glastoniæ sicut et cæteræ fidelium turbæ magno colebant affectu, et maxime ob B. Patricii junioris honorem qui faustus ibidem in Domino quievisse narratur. Horum etiam libros, rectæ fidei tramitem philosophantes, diligenter excoluit; aliorumque prudentium quos ab intimo cordis aspectu Patrum Sanctorum assertionem solidatos esse persensit, solubili semper scrutamine indagavit," The words in *italics* preclude Osbern's fiction of an "Irish School."

work of Alfred passed the years of his youth, outstripping his companions, and roving* over the literature, sacred and profane, of his house, till the overtaken brain broke down into fever and delirium.† Bursting from the control of his nurse the boy rushed down the road toward the church, whirling from side to side the stick he had snatched up to keep off the hounds which his frenzy imagined in pursuit of him. He scaled the ladders which led to the roof, and threading his way along its timbers descended in safety among the slumbering “custodes.” The result of this wonderful escape was a resolve on the part of his parents to devote him to the life of a “Clericus,” or professional man of the day, and with this purpose he was now placed in the cœnobium of Glastonbury.‡ Here his rapid progress continued; his knowledge, especially of the Irish books in the library, became famous in the neighbourhood, and reached (perhaps when wandering in the neighbourhood) the court of the King. He seems himself to have made his appearance there, but only to excite the ill-will of the courtiers, many of whom were kinsfolk of his own. Charges of magic, of addiction to the old heathen legends, and spells, were made against him; his enemies drove him from the king’s train, and,

* B. 6. “Velut apis ingeniosa”—“How doth the little busy bee?”

† B. 5. Breaks out into verse on the subject. For the dogs, cf

“Fustem ac surculeum rapuit tunc forte reperitum

Quocum percutiens ambabus partibus auras,

A canibus rabidis *quasi* se defenderet,”

with Osbern’s “Necdum itineris medium confecerat, cum malignus spiritus latrantium canum multitudine stipatus occurrit, viamque eunti intercludere contendit.” Dunstan shakes his stick in his face and abuses him! Sec. 5.

‡ Osbern places this event after his admission to the “school” at Glastonbury. It is clear from B. 4, 5, (whom he is copying) that he only entered the cœnobium in consequence of it, and had been well taught *before*.

waiting him as he passed through the marshes, threw him from his horse, and, with the wild passion of a rude age, trampled him underfoot in the mire.* A mile off stood a friend's house, and thither Dunstan crawled as they rode away; the fierce house-dogs rushed out at one who, in his miry guise, seemed more monster than man, but (the story lights up a side of Dunstan's character) recognized his voice and fawned upon him.† It was probably to the house of his kinsman,‡ Elfege the Bald, Bishop of Winchester, the demesnes of whose see covered a large part of Somerset, that the bemired scholar made his way. "Become a monk," was the probably very friendly advice of Elfege, but the charms of a young lady-love,|| whose caresses he every day enjoyed, were of more weight than the attractions of celibacy. A severe attack, however, of what seems to have been a dropsical disease, seconded the exhortation of his kinsman, and Dunstan rose from his sick-bed a monk. A narrow escape from a falling stone and the death of his Glastonbury friend, the deacon Wulfrid, confirmed him in his choice.

* B. 6. *Nonnulli priorum sodalium et Palatinorum, tam quam maxime consanguineorum suorum qui salutiferis actibus ejus inuidebant . . . dicentes illum ex libris salutaribus et viris peritis non salutis animarum profutura sed avitoe gentilitatis vanissima didicisse carmina et historiarum frivolas colere incantationum nœnias projecerunt in lutulenta palustrum loca et . . . pedibus superimprimebant . . . in foetenti volutabro dehonestarent. aceorimi canes crudeli latratu hunc invasarunt, tamen ut blandientis vocem audierunt, mox esse illius ex eo tantummodo reticentes agnoverunt.*

† Osbern gives a sketch of his court-life—makes him court-favourite, and judge!! This, in a boy, staggers modern biographers, but they still follow Osbern in placing here the episode of the self-sounding harp. Hook. i, 387.

‡ B. 7. "*Propinquus ipsius.*"

|| *Cujus quotidie blanditiis foveretur*, "The lively discussion between Elfege and Dunstan, in Osbern, Sec. 11, (and thence enlarged by Dean Hook, i, 389, 390) is a fair specimen of his invention. Bridferth, whom he is closely following, gives not a syllable of it.

Wulfrid appeared to him in a dream, relating things of heaven and earth, and, on Dunstan asking a sign, led him into the porch, pointed to an unoccupied spot on its southern side, and announced the burial of a priest there before three days elapsed. Dunstan, visiting the place at daybreak with a group of friends, threw a stone at the spot as he passed, saying lightly "If what I dreamt be true, a priest has to be buried here ere three days are over." No sooner had he retired than the fated priest entered, chose it as the spot of his interment, and died within the appointed time.*

The incident had no small effect on the fortunes of Dunstan. The priest thus buried had been the spiritual guide (perhaps the husband†) of Ethelfleda, one of those Englishwomen of high rank who, like Bertha or Hilda, play no unimportant part in our early church history. Desirous, after her husband's death, of living the life of a nun unattached, she built for her residence a dwelling near the western part of the church, and spent her wealth in works of charity and the entertainment of pilgrims. Amongst these came King Athelstan, and the story of the royal dinner gives a lively picture of the English court on its travels. The "prævisores" of the King's table arrive the day beforehand to see if all be ready, and, after due inspection, signify their approval of the preparations "if only there is no lack of mead." Ethelfleda, hurt at the apprehended disgrace, flies to the altar of the Virgin and implores her aid for the morrow. On the morrow the King arrives, followed by the long train of his court,‡ and after prayers and mass adjourns to the hall for dinner. All day

* B. 9.

† B. 9. "Magister atque sacerdos." Ibid 10 "post amissum virum."

‡ B. 10. "Stipatus magno comitatu."

long the cup-bearers with horns and vessels draw at the mead cask, but without exhausting it, till the feast ends and the King rides off.* Dunstan had become a monk, but the monastic profession seems to have been little more than a vow of celibacy. He now became the chaplain and guide of Ethelfleda. "He ever clave to her and loved her in wondrous fashion" is the simple remark of his early biographer.† The wealth of his devotee was placed unreservedly at his command, his sphere begins to widen, we see him followed by a train of pupils,‡ busy with literature,|| writing, harping, painting, designing. One morning the Lady Edelpyrm summons him to her house to design a stole which she is embroidering. He goes, carrying with him his harp (as was his wont) to amuse his friends in their labours. Dinner over, as he returns with Edelpyrm and her maidens to their toil, the harp, hanging on the wall, sounds, without mortal touch, tones which frame themselves in the excited ears around into the antiphon, "Gaudent in cœlis," while girls and matron drop their embroidery and stare at one another in mute amazement.§

We may pause here to compare this genial scholar-life, so far as it has gone, with the Rembrandtesque sketch which Osbern and the modern biographers and historians in his train have made so familiar to us. In his story the usual wonders prelude the birth of the wondrous child; a

* B. 10. "Pincernis, ut assolet in regalibus conviviis, cornibus scissis aliisque indiscretæ quantitatis vasibus totum diem propinantibus."

† B. 10. "Huic vero semper adhoerebat Dunstanus qui hanc proe cœteris modis mirabilibus adamavit." B. 11. Quasi propriam matrem unice custodivit.

‡ B. 11. "Cum se sequentibus scholasticis."

|| "Inter sacra literarum studia, ut in omnibus esset idoneus artem scribendi, necnon citharizandi, pariterque pingendi peritiam diligenter excoluit." B. 12.

§ B. 12. "Attonitæ sese invicem aspiciabant."

sudden darkness fills the church as his mother, Cynedridis, kneels there in the gloom of a February morning, every taper save her own is extinguished and needs to be re-kindled at its flame.* The books left by the Irish peregrini are transmuted into an establishment of Irish scholars, receiving for education the sons of the adjacent thanes, which again in the after-developement of the Dean of Chichester is discovered to have "resembled closely one of our modern colleges."† The youth visits the court, becomes favourite and chancellor, and flies a disgraced courtier. In his bitterness he turns, not merely monk, but anchorite. His cell does not, from Bridferth's silence, seem to have arisen in the first biographer's day, but Osbern has seen it "more like a tomb than a dwelling," five feet in length, in breadth about two-and-a-half. Here the wild anchorite worked the night through at his forge, and through its little window the Devil looked in at the grey of eve.‡ Very vivid is Osbern's rendering of the well-known legend—the Devil chatting of wine and women while the saint is quietly heating his tongs at the fire until the longed-for moment arrives, when, snatching them from the forge, he fastens on the "grisly face,"|| and, struggling with might and main, drags the monster inside. At last the Devil wriggles away, breaking, with shouts of "Oh, what has this bald-head done?"§ the slumbers of the villagers. His fame gathers to the cell pilgrims of every age and rank, amongst them Elgiva, who, entranced with his conversation, resolves to settle there and live and die with him.

It is impossible not to admire the wild poetry of Osbern's

* Osbern sec. 2.

† Hook, Arch. B. Cant. i. 385.

‡ "Sub obscuro vespere." Osb. 14.

|| "Larvalem faciem." I know of no authority for the "nose." Osb. 14.

§ "Oh, quid fecit calvus iste." Osb. 14.

conception of the anchorite, but no conception could have been less in accordance with the Dunstan of Bridferth and of fact. From the happy quiet of his Glastonbury life he was now suddenly called into a wider sphere by the change of ministry which seems to have followed the death of Athelstan and accession of Eadmund in 940. The tie which had bound him to it had been previously broken. It chanced one day that Dunstan had been absent from the common vespers and was approaching the church at eve with his scholars to complete the office, when, in the waning light of the eastern sky, he saw afar off a white dove of wondrous beauty, winging its way to the house of Ethelfleda. It was the precursor of her death.* The old jealousies seem to have revived on Dunstan's appearance at the court, then stationed, apparently, at "Ceodrium," perhaps Cheddar.† The faction of his opponents prevailed, he counted the game lost, and betaking himself to some envoys from Essex, then staying at court, besought and obtained a promise of settlement in that kingdom and prepared to depart in their train. Eadmund spent the day in the chase; the red deer which he had pursued dashed over Cheddar cliffs,‡ and the King's horse only checked itself on the brink of a ravine, while Edmund, in the bitterness of anticipated death, was recalling his injustice to Dunstan. He was at once summoned on the King's return, "Make haste and saddle your horse," said Edmund, "and journey with me." The royal train passed from Mendip over the marshes to Glastonbury;|| there, entering the church, the

* B. 11.

† B. 13.

‡ B. 14. "Est ibi in proximis locis Ceoddis quoddam inter alia plura præcisi montis præcipitium, mirâ quidem et immensâ profunditate devexum."

|| "Viam quæ ducit Glastoniam recto tramite." B. 14.

King took Dunstan by the hand, bestowed on him the kiss of peace, and seated him in the priestly chair as Abbot of Glastonbury.

Dunstan can have been still but a young man when he became (in the Benedictine sense of the word) the founder of English monasticism. The King's gift was rather that of the royal vill and its accompanying fisheries than of what later times would regard as a religious house. What came of the gift was the creation of Dunstan himself. Every English Abbey of the future looked back as its parent to the cloister that rose to realise the dream of his youth. Every great monastic school looked back for its model to the great school of the West, whence four primates had mounted in succession the chair of Canterbury.

1. Of Dunstan himself as Abbot very little is told us. We see him in various stories walking, staff in hand,* with brother Elfege, from cell to cell, inspecting the kitchen arrangements, superintending the new buildings, the fruits of Ethelfleda's legacy, up at dawn correcting faulty manuscripts, busy in reconciling the brethren or engaged in Divine Service with eyes and hands uplifted and face often bathed in tears. But the life of Ethelwold gives us a pleasant peep into the interior of the Abbey.† Learned, active in body and mind, the son of the burgher of Winchester had mounted into court-favour, and, with a view to promotion, had been ordained with Dunstan. He now joined him in his new monastery. In study, whether of books or of music, in prayer and mortification, Ethelwold rapidly took the lead of his fellows; but even when appointed Dean he still remained abbey-gardener, and

* "Spiculo quod semper secum chira dextrâ convehbat." B. 16. . . .
 "quem semper secum manu advehbat baculum." B. 17.

† Life by Wolstan. Acta Sanct, Aug. 1, p. 83.

gathered with his own hands the apples and beans for the brethren's refecton. In him Dunstan saw the great engine he needed for the developement of monasticism in England. A dream showed him a tree of wondrous height, stretching its branches north and south, eastward and westward over all Britain, its boughs laden with countless cowls, while a cowl of larger size than all crowned the topmost twig. The tree, Dunstan interpreted, was England as it was to be; the big cowl, Ethelwold.

2. Ethelwold, a famous teacher himself, as Abbot of Abingdon, probably learnt the art under Dunstan. All tradition told of the kindliness of Dunstan's teaching. A hundred years after, when the annual whipping time for Canterbury school arrived (it was a yearly custom in the Cathedral to give the boys a sound whipping all round at Christmas, not for any definite fault, but with a view to their general improvement), the poor little wretches crowded weeping to his shrine, and besought aid of their "dear father Dunstan." Dunstan it was—so every Canterbury schoolboy believed—who set the masters first asleep and then a quarrelling till the whipping blew over.* And the tradition is only in accordance with the few stories preserved of his actual intercourse with his boys. In the midst of a visitation, at Bath, his thoughts were with them, and he told how he had seen the soul of one of them carried heavenward, along a path of light, among an innumerable company of angels.† More interesting—because more authentic—is the tale told to Bridferth by the boy, afterwards a prelate,‡ who shared the adventure. The

* Osbern. *Miracles*, Bk. II., sec. 11. (in Mabillon. *A.S.B.O.* Sec. 5.) The story (Osbern shared it himself) is most interesting and vividly told.

† Osbern. *Life*. Sec. 23.

‡ Bridferth. Sec. 18. Probably told by Archbishop Ælfrie.

monks had all quitted the Abbey to meet the funeral train which was bringing thither the corpse of the Steward Wulfrie. None remained save the Abbot and one little schoolboy ; and the two walked out together to see if the brethren were in sight. As they went along* “singing according to their wont,” a stone, flung at them from the other side of the old Church, missed Dunstan’s head, but knocked off the cap which he wore.† “Run and pick up the stone,” said the Abbot, turning to the boy, “and bring it for me to look at.” All men agreed that no stone of the kind, big or little, was to be found within the borders of Somerset ; that it was, in fact, a “shy” of the Devil’s. Dunstan, however, bade it be preserved in safe keeping, and so became, it would seem, the first geologist of the West.

Here, however, we must leave the Dunstan of Bridferth, less romantic, less dramatic than his better-known “double,” yet (as it seems to me) more natural, and no less great. He leaves the impressiön, not of the wild anchorite or the stern fanatic of the common biographers, but of a nature gay, sunny, versatile, artistic ; full of strong affections, and capable of inspiring others with affections as strong. As a boy, his schoolfellows weep for him in dread of his death ;‡ as a youth he has a bosom friend in the Deacon Wulfrie ; throughout his manhood he seems always to have won the devotion of women, of his lady-love, of Ethelgiva, of the queenmother Eadgive.|| His affability is one of the marked traits of his character ; he is the favourite alike of his schoolboys, his monks, and

* “Dum semper ex more psallendo incederet.” Ib.

† “Pileum, quo caput velabat.” B. 18.

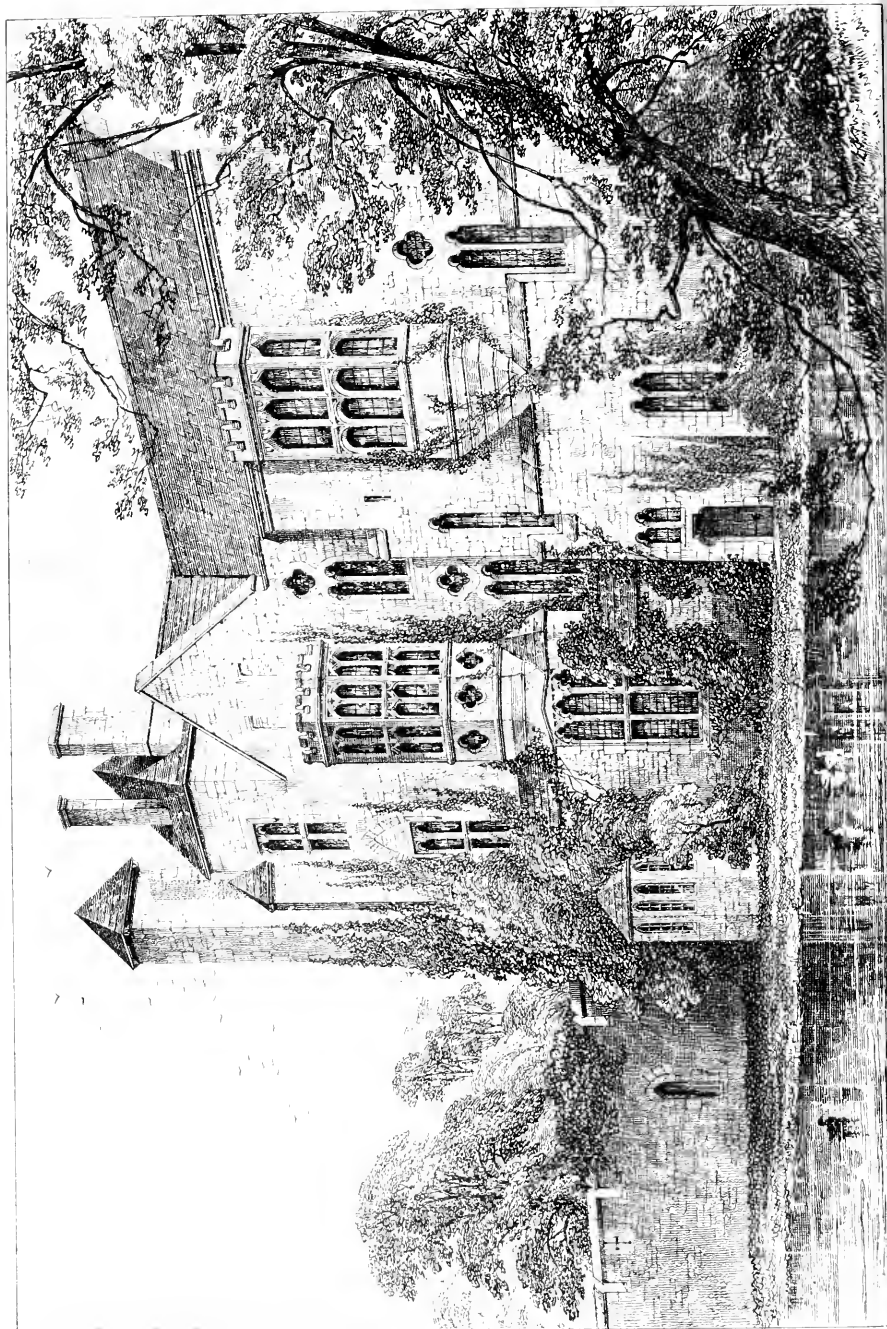
‡ “Flebat scholasticorum coetanea turba.” Osb. 5.

|| See B 19.

the populace.* Quick-witted, of strong memory, a ready and fluent speaker,† of gay and genial address, an artist, a musician; he was at the same time a hard student, an indefatigable worker, busy at books, at building, at handicraft. We leave him as yet neither minister nor archbishop, but Abbot Dunstan; his slender frame leaning on his cross-headed staff, his scant fine hair covered by his cap, singing psalms with the little schoolboys, and dreaming of a future for England, when, from that seed-plot at Glastonbury, monasteries should be scattered broadcast over the land, and cowls should hang upon every branch of that mighty tree. The funeral of King Eadmund rolls in; the hour has struck when the dream has to be thrown aside for action, and the Dunstan of Somerset must broaden with the Dunstan of England.

* See the picturesque scene at his funeral. Osbern, Sec. 59. "*Sub immenso murmure lugentium populorum, feretrum densissime ambientium facies suas dissecantium, palmis sese ferientium, atque amaris vocibus, 'Heu! Heu! carissime Patre!' clamantium.*"

† "*Dicendi facultas.*" Osbern, 43.



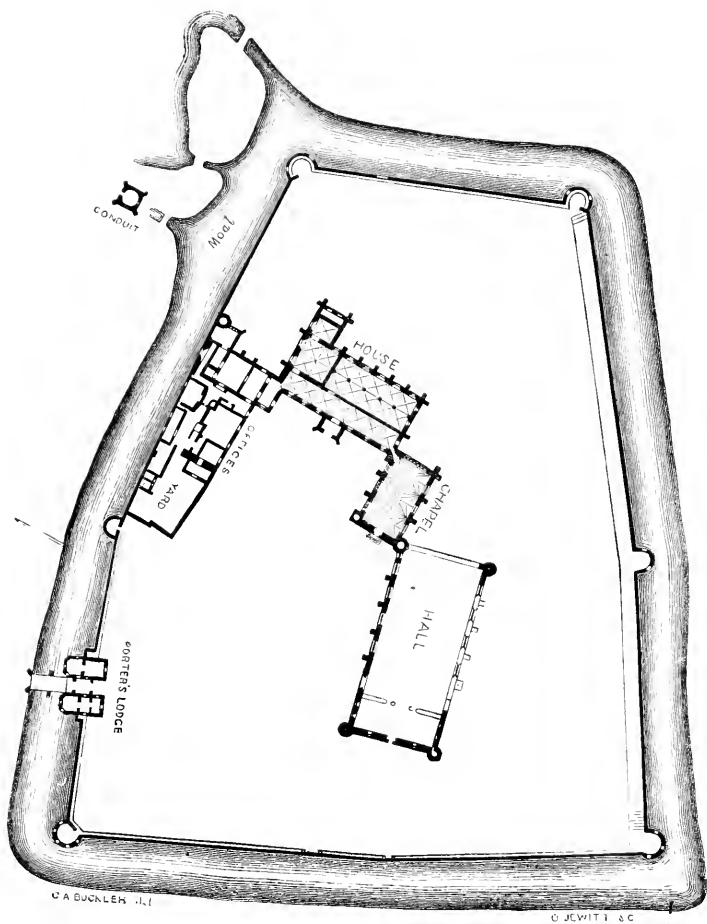
The Bishop's Palace at Wells.

BY JOHN HENRY PARKER, F.S.A.

THE City of Wells is one of the most interesting in Europe to the student of Gothic Architecture, and not to the student of architecture only, but to the student of the History of England also. These two studies should never be separated; the study of architecture is not merely the study of bricks and mortar, or the art of constructing buildings, but the history of those admirable structures which our ancestors have bequeathed to us (and which we have so shamefully neglected), and which form an essential and important part of the history of our country. The city of Wells illustrates this close connection between history and architecture in a very remarkable degree; it brings vividly before our eyes an important chapter in the history of Europe, about which we have all read a great deal and understood very little. I mean the long-continued struggle between the regulars, or monks, and the seculars, or the parochial and cathedral clergy. The monks, as we all know, were persons who had devoted themselves to the service of God in a religious life,

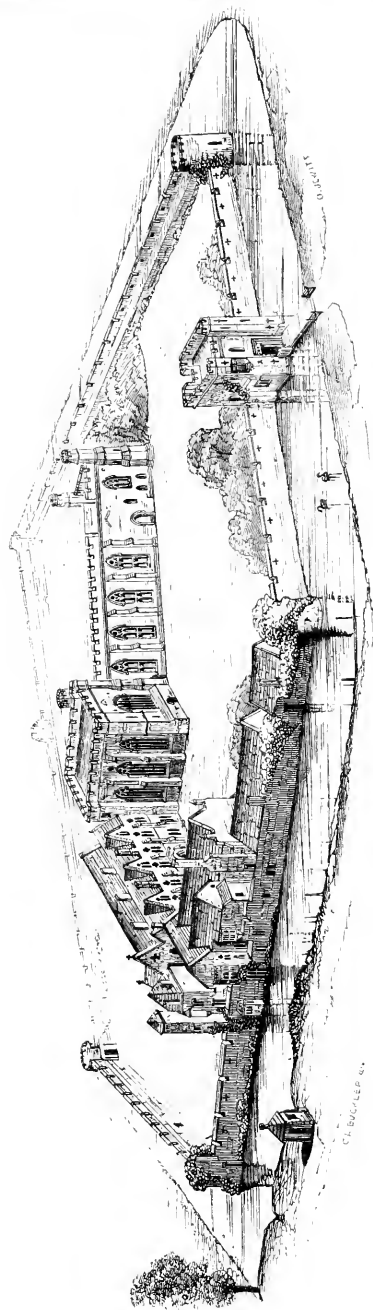
separated from the world and its ordinary duties, worthy excellent people originally, enthusiastic in a good cause, proceeding upon an erroneous principle from the common cause of so much error—the taking particular texts of Scripture too literally and isolating them from other texts which explain their true meaning. These good men did great service to the cause of religion at a certain period when such establishments were necessary; but afterwards, in the course of centuries, abuses crept in, and they became as really worldly and selfish as any other class, and their continually increasing wealth and power threatened to absorb the whole property and power of the country. Then came the long struggle to keep them under, which was only finally settled by their entire suppression under Henry the Eighth, the first necessary step to the reform of all other abuses in Church and State.

The seculars, on the other hand, were, as I have said, the parochial clergy, headed by their Cathedral Chapters, originally the canons, *chanoines*, or chanters in the church of the bishop, the head church in the diocese. These canons were parochial clergy; each was a parish priest who lived the greater part of the year in his parish; he only took his turn in performing the services of the cathedral, assisted the bishop with his advice, and his services when required. He often served for a time as an itinerant popular preacher, under the direction of the bishop, for the ordinary parish clergy were too ignorant to be allowed to preach. The license to preach granted by the bishop was then a reality, and was granted only to those who *could* preach; now it has become a mere form and a matter of course, and the methodists have been allowed to run away with this part of the church system. But I am digressing. The monks then lived together in common;

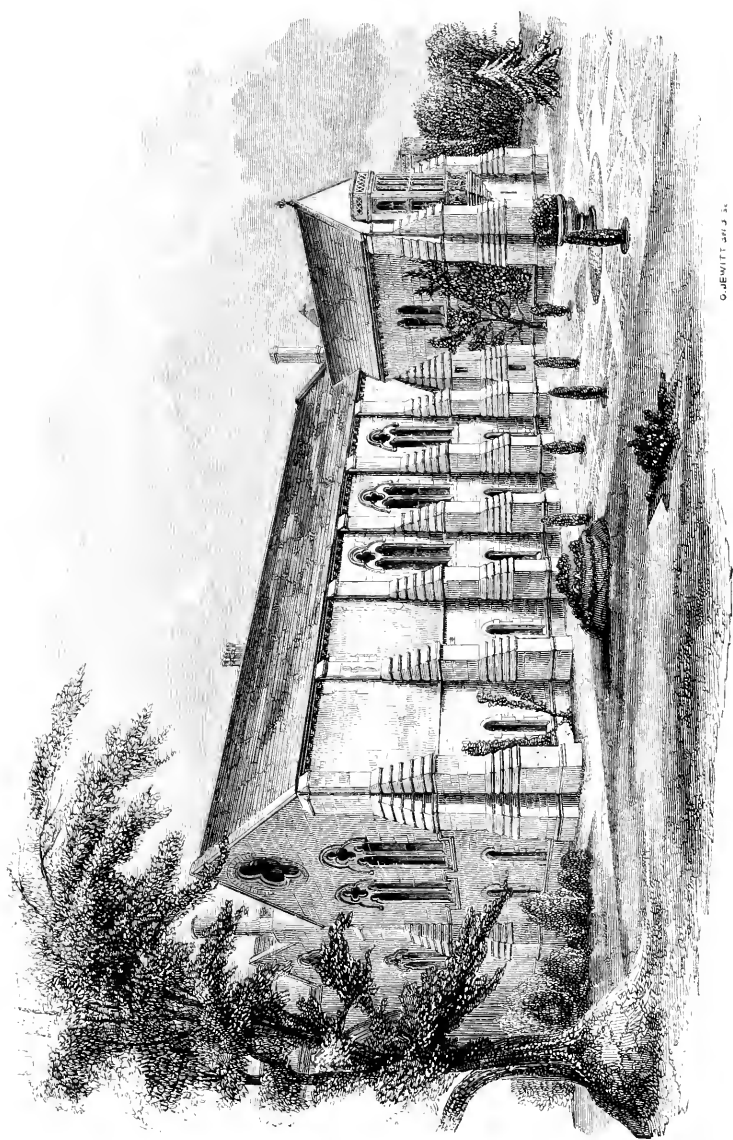


GENERAL PLAN.

BISHOP'S PALACE, WELLS.

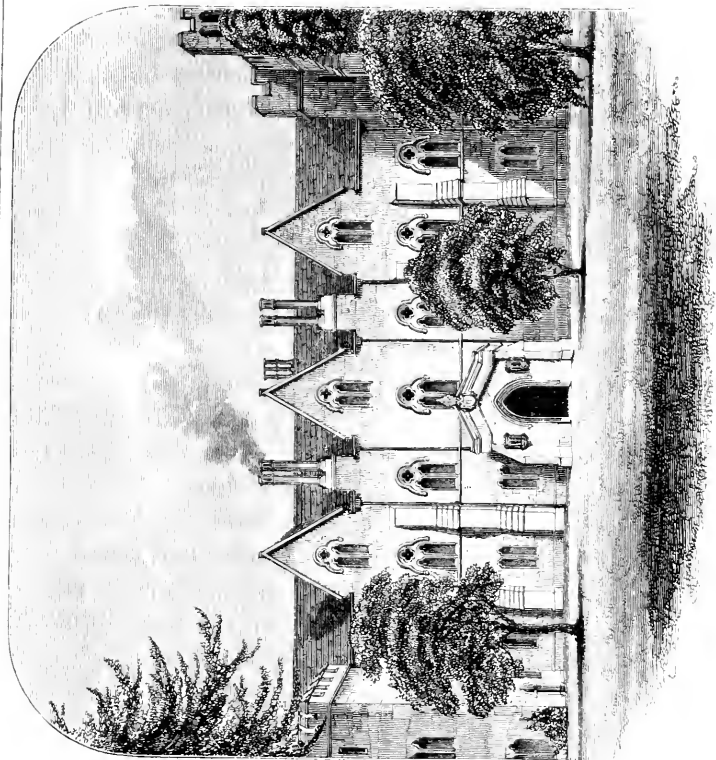


Bird's-eye View of the Bishop's Palace.

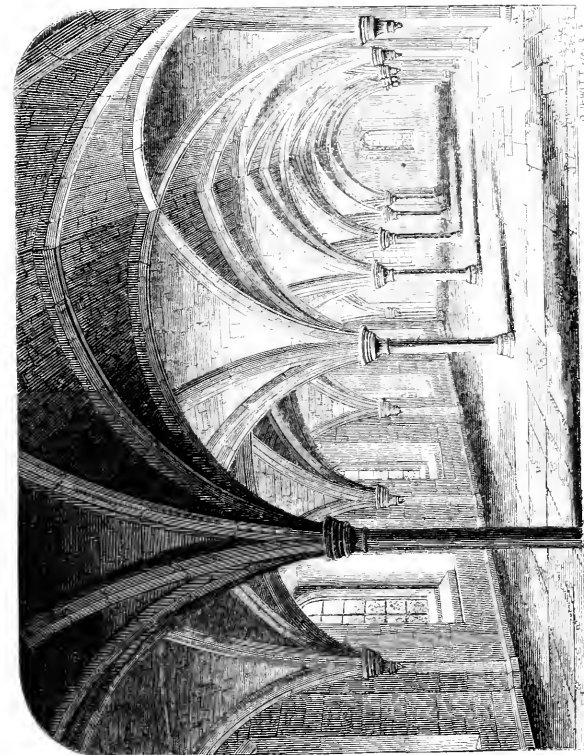


G. JEWITT del. J. 24.

East or Garden Front of Bishop Jocelyne's Palace, A.D. 1305-1344.
(The Oriel Window inserted.)

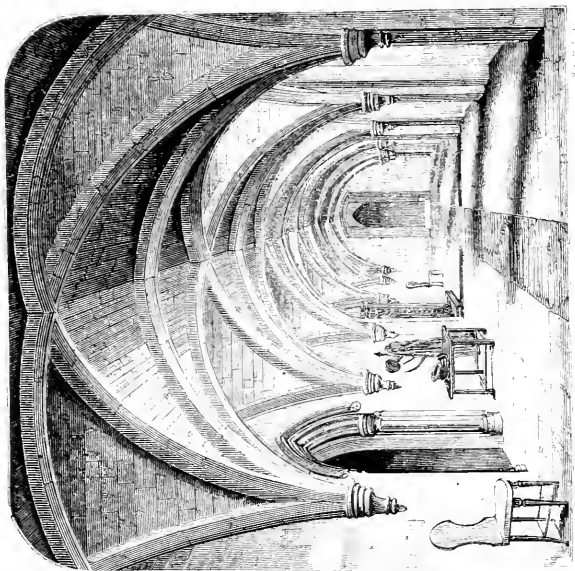


West Front of Bishop Jocelyne's Palace, A.D. 1205—1244.
(The upper story and Porch added.)

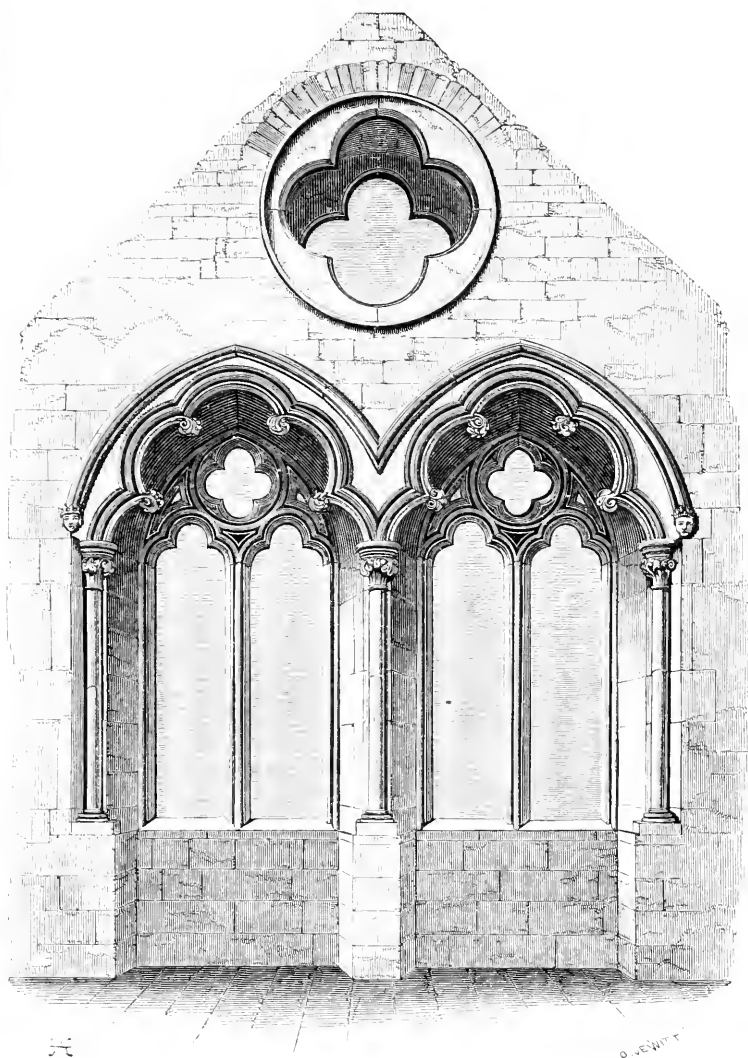


Servants' Hall.

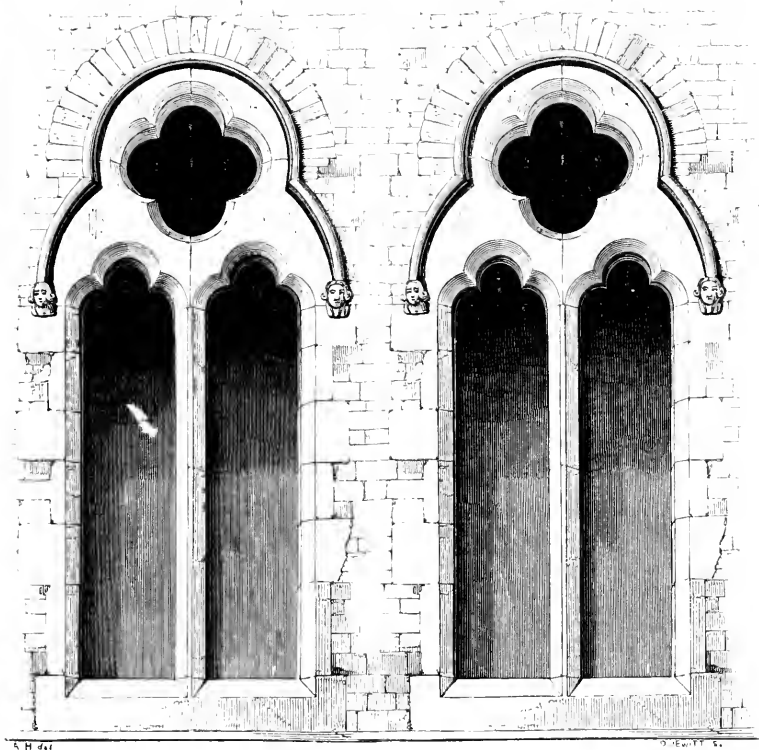
The work of Bishop Jocelyne, A.D. 1205—1244.



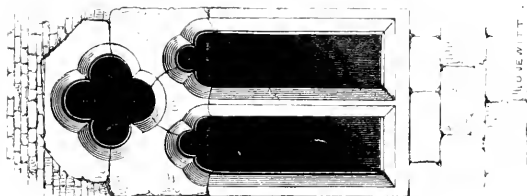
Entrance Hall.



Interior of Window, A.D. 1205—1244.
North End of Bishop Jocelyne's Hall, (now the Bishop's Dining-room).

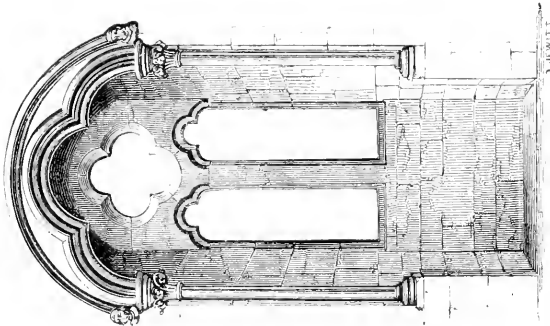


Exterior of South Window of Bishop Jocelyne's Hall, A.D. 1205-1244.

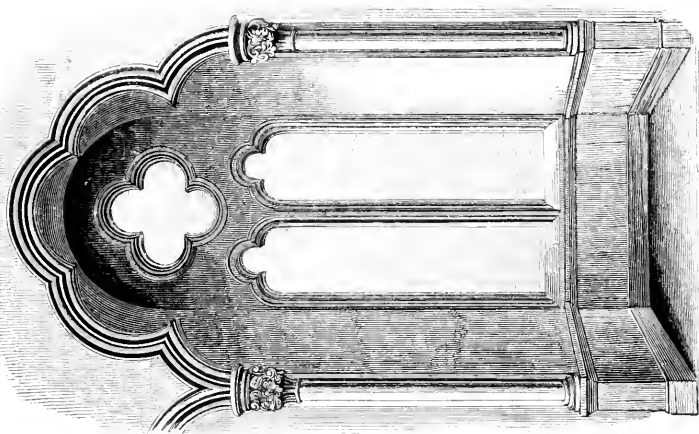


Exterior.

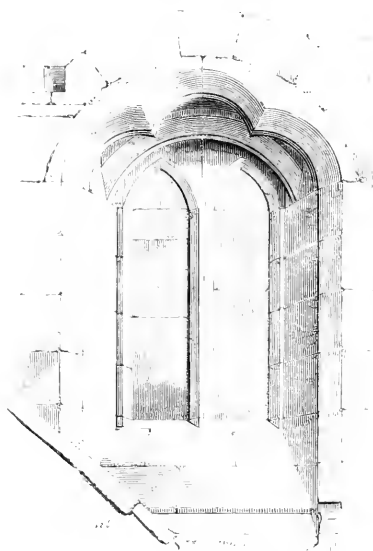
Side Windows in the Long Gallery, on the first floor.



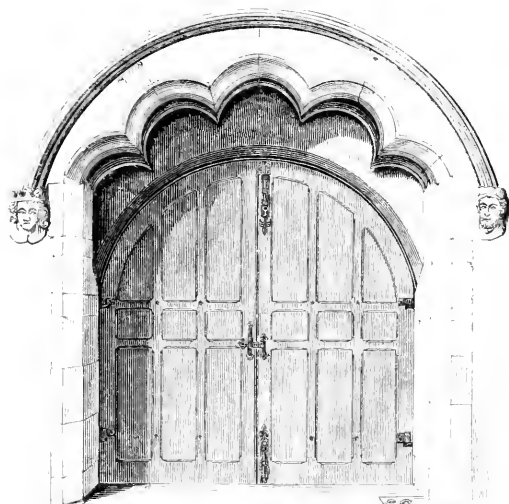
Interior.



Interior of South End of Window, Bishop Jocelyne's Hall,
(now the Bishop's Library).

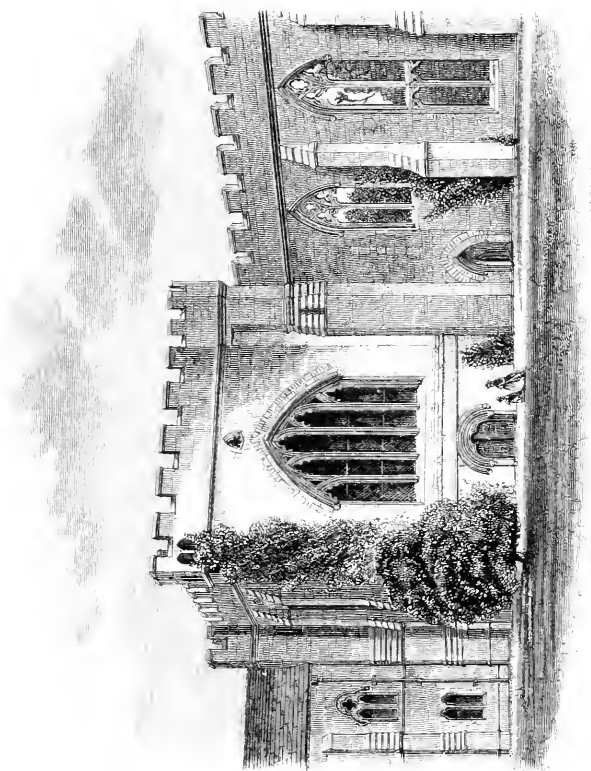


Window in the West Front of the Cathedral, A.D. 1205-1244.

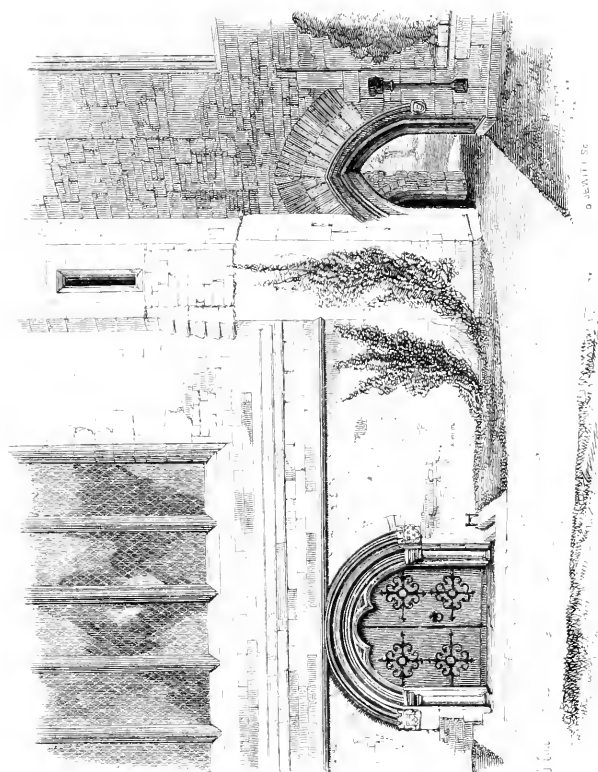


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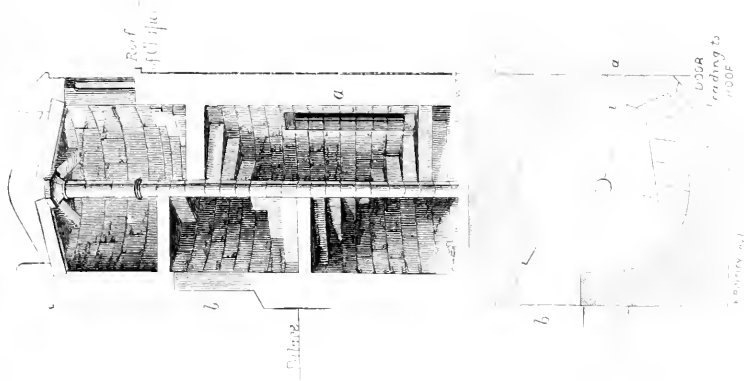
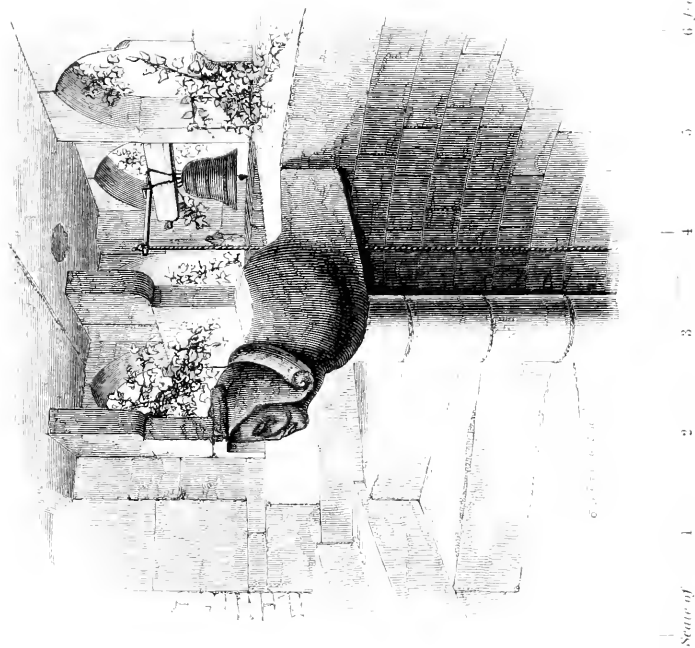
West Door of Chapel, interior.



West end of the Chapel, with part of Bishop Jocelyne's House and Bishop Burnell's Hall.

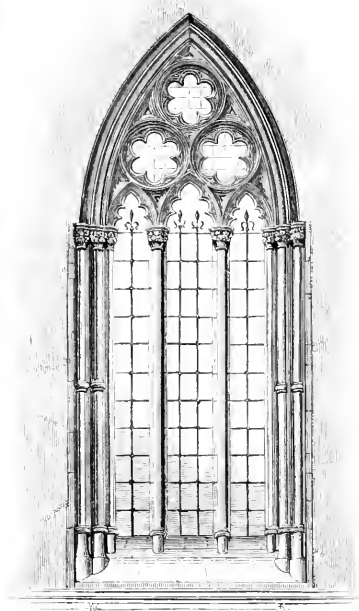


Part of the West End of the Chapel, shewing the Junction with the Hall.

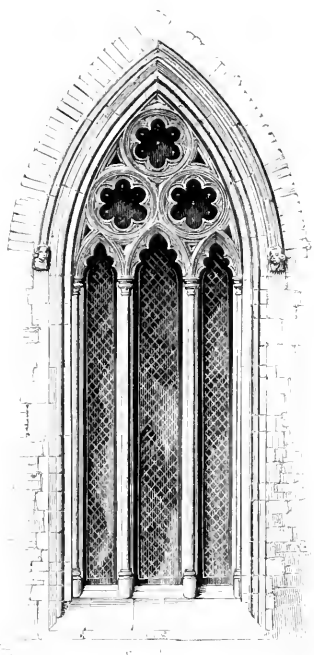


a The loop-hole blocked up by the end of the east wall.
 b b Doorways.
 c Interior of loop-hole.

Scale of 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 feet

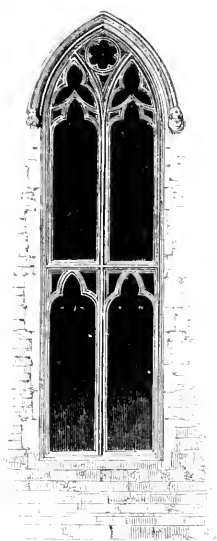


Interior.

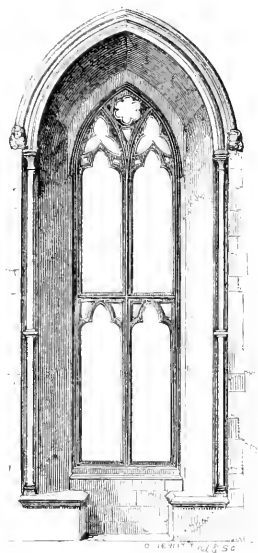


Exterior.

Side Windows of the Chapel, c. 1290 ?

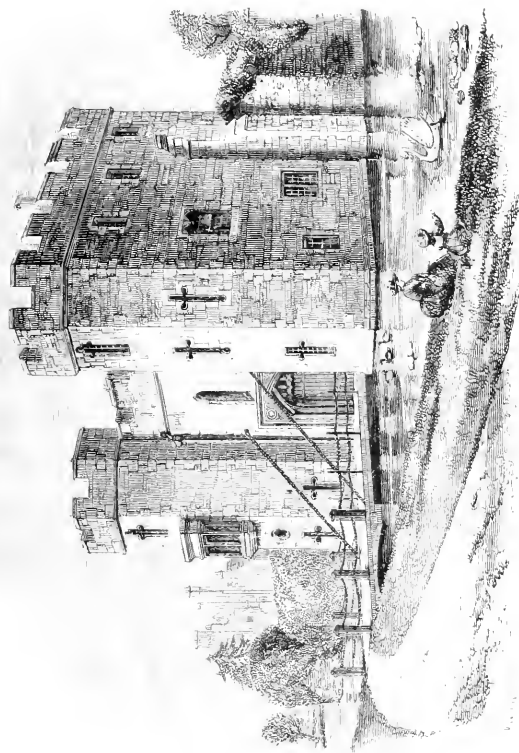


Exterior.

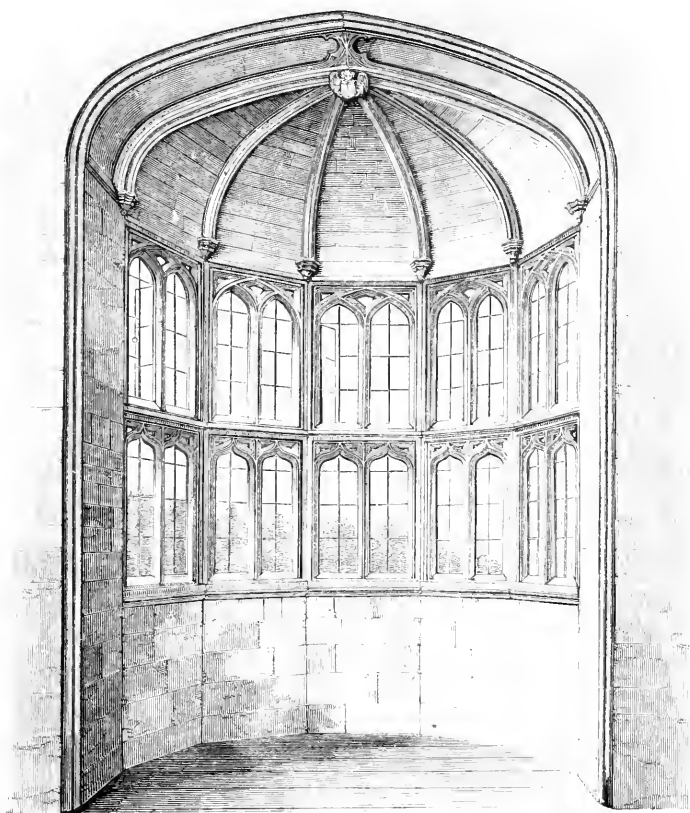


Interior.

Windows of Bishop Burnell's Hall, c. 1280 ?



The Gate-house, built by Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury, A.D. 1329 - 1363.



Oriel Window—Bishop Clerke, A.D. 1523—1540.



ROSE—Arms of Bishop Clerke.

they had their common dining hall, or refectory, and their common dormitory, or sleeping hall, divided by wooden partitions into small cells, or sleeping rooms, one for each monk. So many of our finest churches belonged to these monasteries, that ignorant people commonly suppose they *all* did, and call Gothic architecture a monkish style, and the houses of that style fit only for monks to live in; but this is merely betraying their own ignorance of the subject. Gothic architecture is just as applicable to any other purpose as to churches or monasteries, and was in fact applied to castles and houses, and any other purpose for which a building was required; it is simply the style of building used by our ancestors for *every* purpose.

The buildings of Wells are not monastic at all; here we have no dormitory, no refectory, none of the buildings essential for the monastic system. Each canon had his separate house from the beginning; these establishments for the secular clergy were distinctly opposed to the monks. An attempt had been made in Wells to establish the monastic system in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The monks of Glastonbury had struggled hard to obtain possession of it, and to make the bishop one of their own body, but they had failed, and before the commencement of the present buildings the matter had been settled. The monastic buildings which had been erected at Wells were destroyed, the bishopric remained independent of the monks, and the monks of Glastonbury were obliged to give up to the cathedral chapter, or the bishop's council, certain manors. These were Winscombe, Pucklechurch, Blackford, and Cranmore, which were ceded to Bishop Joceline and his successors for ever, and the addition of these important manors supplied the chapter with funds to enable them to commence their new buildings.

Bishop Joceline, who then ruled the diocese, was a native of Wells, and had been a canon before he became bishop. He was a truly great man, in advance of his age, a man of great prudence and foresight, and who had formed most magnificent ideas of the fortune of his great diocese, which was now permanently united with both Bath and Glastonbury. To correspond with this great accession of territory, of importance, and of wealth, he considered that suitable buildings were necessary to support the dignity of the bishop and the seat of his chapter, the head-quarters of the diocese ; and he formed the plan of the magnificent series of buildings, of which so large a part has fortunately been preserved to our time. The splendid cathedral is only a portion of his grand design,—it is the centre of a group of buildings fit to accompany and support it.

To give an account of all these buildings would be to write the history of the city of Wells, which would require a volume, and which has been already done often enough. The cathedral alone is a subject for a volume, and this also has been already done, and well done, especially by Professor Willis, the first architectural historian of the day, and more recently in Mr. Murray's *Handbook of the Cathedrals*. The Lady Chapel, the Chapter-house, the Deanery, the Archdeaconry, the houses of the Vicars in their Close, the Gatehouses of the Precincts, the Prebendal Houses in the Liberty, each of these is a subject for a separate essay, though all are closely connected, and form parts of the system. The Bishop's Palace, though also part of the same magnificent group of buildings, is more detached and more complete in itself, and to that I now propose to call your attention, and hope to give you such a history of it as will make you all feel an additional interest in this, which is really one of the earliest, and has been one of the finest houses in England.

The Bishop's Palace.

The palace was originally built by Bishop Joceline, between 1205 and 1244, and appears to have been a quadrangle, the east side of which was formed by the present dwelling-house of the bishop ; the north by the kitchen and offices, which have been much altered, and partly rebuilt at different times ; the south by the chapel rebuilt by Bishop Burnel ; and the west by a gatehouse, now destroyed, with a piece of curtain wall to connect it on each side with the other buildings. There is no distinct evidence of the fourth side of the original quadrangle, but there is great probability of it from a comparison with other houses, and the old drains found by the bishop by digging in this part of the court in 1860, seem to confirm it. They appeared to have been carried round the two turrets of a gatehouse. In Buck's view of the palace, taken about 1700, a square tower is shown at the west end of the north wing, opposite the corner of the chapel, which would have been at one corner of the original quadrangle. Bishop Beckington is said to have added to the palace that "middle tower or gate," under which is the passage going from the great gate to the house, as also that cloister which heretofore joined thereunto, and reached to the end of the great hall, as does, and did appear by the coat of arms and rebus thereon. This middle tower must clearly have been at the place indicated by the drain, and the cloister was, no doubt, against the western wall, connecting the middle tower on one side with the tower at the north-west angle, shown in Buck's view, and on the other with the west door to the chapel, and the small door into the hall ; marks of it may be distinctly seen over that door, and over the west of the chapel. The

cloister must have been covered with a flat lead roof, and there is a doorway in one of the western turrets of the chapel, which must have opened on the top of it. There is also a similar doorway in the north-east turret, showing that the cloister was continued along on the north side of the chapel in its original state. The foundations of the north wall of a similar cloister have been found along the south side of the servants' wing also, so that the quadrangle of Bishop Joceline's palace must have had a cloister on three sides of it, running into the present internal cloister, or entrance gallery of the palace.

The present dwelling-house or palace, which remains to a great extent perfect, though with many alterations of a minor kind, has the lower story vaulted with a good Early English groined vault, with ribs, carried upon slender pillars and corbels; the parallelogram is divided lengthwise by a solid wall at about one third of the width, the outer or narrow part of which now forms the entrance hall and passage to the staircase at one end and the chapel at the other. In this vestibule is a fireplace of the time of Henry VIII., which has probably replaced an original one. The entrance doorway has been moved one bay southward, and a modern porch built over it. The buttresses have been restored in this front. The entrance or gallery has originally been divided by a thick wall into two apartments of nearly equal size. This may be seen by the break in the vaulting ribs, and the transverse arch.

The wider space has a row of small pillars down the centre to carry the vault. There is no fire-place in it, and it was probably divided by wooden partitions into store-rooms and cellars, or it may have been used as a servants' hall. At the north-west corner of the building there is a square projection on the north side, the walls in the ground

floor of which are of immense thickness, and it was probably intended for a tower, which the situation seems to indicate. The ground room is vaulted like the rest of the substructure. The room over this (now the bishop's study) has had an oriel window thrown out at the end, and a newel staircase, made in the angle, formed by the projection and the main building. The windows on the east side in the ground floor are plain single lancets, well splayed; those on the west side are of two lights, trefoil headed; these may, perhaps, have been altered.

The upper story of this long range of building is divided in the same manner as the lower one by a solid wall running the whole length, and separating one third of the width as a long gallery, in which there are two modern fireplaces, the chimnies of which are probably original; this upper gallery has also been originally divided into two rooms. The larger division is divided into three apartments, the partitions are all modern or modernised, and as the roof and ceilings are also modern, there is no guide as to what the original arrangements were, but it seems probable that they were the same as at present. The side windows on this floor are each of two lights, trefoil headed, with a quatrefoil over them, and each has a very elegant inner arch, trefoiled and richly moulded, with blue marble shafts in the jambs, having capitals of stiff-leaf foliage and moulded bases. The end windows are remarkably fine, especially the one at the north end, now the bishop's dining-room; it is of four lights divided into two pairs, each with a quatrefoil in the head, and in the gable over the centre of these two sub-divisions is another larger quatrefoil, originally open to the hall,—though now concealed by the modern ceiling, the arches are cusped and the points of the cusps ornamented

with sculptured foliage. The jambs are also enriched with shafts having capitals of sculptured foliage, and the drip-stone, or hoodmould, over the arches, is terminated by heads. It will be perceived that by this beautiful arrangement the whole of the north end of the hall formed one magnificent Early English window of the richest description. At the north end of the building the same arrangement is followed, and the window is equally fine, though rather plainer, the end of the cusps not being carved. If the whole of this range, was really one great hall, with the large window at each end, and the range of windows on the east side, it must have been one of the finest halls in Europe; finer even than Westminster Hall. The side windows, however, do not continue the whole length, but have a blank space at each end, corresponding with the partition walls, and this makes it more probable that the present divisions are original.

As I find that a common notion prevails that these beautiful windows are nearly all modern, copied from one or two old ones, I take this opportunity of mentioning that such is not the case. They are commonly said to have been made by Mr. Ferrey, in the time of Bishop Bagot, but Mr. Ferrey has very kindly lent me his drawings shewing all that he did in the palace, and he assures me that these beautiful windows are nearly all original, the arches and heads had been entirely hidden and filled up with brick and plaster, and square sash windows introduced below the springing of the arch, but most fortunately the original window-heads had all been preserved, and it was only necessary to clear out the rubbish with which they had been filled up, and restore the mullions. Mr. Ferrey also wishes it to be known that he is not in any way responsible for the modern ceilings or other internal

fittings ; he was employed to restore the stone-work only, which he has done most conscientiously and admirably. An ignorant upholsterer from Bath was employed by Bishop Bagot to do the rest of the work, and did much mischief. All the principal apartments of the palace are still, and were from the beginning, on the first floor, and the entrance to them was always by a staircase in the same situation as the present one, although that is Jacobean work. The omission of the end bay of the vaulting, and the existence of a square pier on one side and none on the other, where the end of the vault is carried on a corbel only, proves that the original state staircase was in this situation and ascended by a sweep round this end of the entrance-hall. The square tower by the side of this, and in the north-east angle of the court, contains the servants' staircase. The present staircase is modern and the tower is an addition to the original work, but it does not seem to be much later; the doorway is of the fifteenth Century and the porch modern, but the windows are very like Joceline's work, and are clearly not modern. The kitchen and offices were partly rebuilt by Bishop Bagot, but on the old site, with some of the old walls and the old chimney-stack remaining. There have evidently always been some rooms between the kitchen and the staircase. The buttery and pantry are usually on a level with the hall even when that is on the first floor and the kitchen on the ground floor, and there is then a straight staircase from the hall to the kitchen, passing between the buttery and the pantry, as at St. Mary's Hall, Coventry, and many other ancient houses. But in this instance it appears that there was a screen only at the servants' end of the hall, and that these offices were downstairs. The partitions in this part of the palace are entirely modern,

and I have not been able to obtain any plan of the old arrangements, so that I can only guess what they were.

Over these original chambers others were added and oriel windows thrown out by Bishop Clerk, who succeeded to Wolsey, and was bishop from 1523 to 1540. His arms are carved on the bosses of the oriel windows. This corner of the palace seems to have been almost rebuilt by him, and the old wall of enclosure of Bishop Ralph was built upon, and had windows pierced through it. The internal arrangement of this part of the house was entirely altered in the time of Bishop Beadon, about 1810, when the floors were taken out and what had been two stories made into three. The square tower at the angle, with a stair turret, is part of the work of Bishop Clerk in the time of Henry VIII. An upper story was also added to the whole of the west front over the long gallery by Bishop Bagot, about 1840, to contain additional bedrooms, and the present dormer windows were then added by Mr. Ferrey with so much ingenuity and in good taste that it is almost impossible to distinguish them from the old work, and the effect of the front is thought by many persons to have been improved by the alteration. The buttresses were then restored, but Mr. Ferrey states that the toothings of the old buttresses remained quite distinct in the walls when the rough-cast was taken off.

The south wing of Bishop Joceline's palace, occupying the site of the present chapel, appears to have been originally of two stories, like the rest of his work, and probably had also a vaulted substructure, with a chapel on the upper floor. The site does not appear to have been exactly coincident with the present walls, the east end has been extended several feet. The staircase turret at the angle connecting the main range of Bishop Joceline's work

with this wing remains perfect and has a very good vault with a central pillar. This vault is, however, part of Bishop Burnel's work, the top of the tower having been rebuilt along with the battlement and cornice of the chapel. There were doorways from this staircase into the present palace, and also into the wing that has been rebuilt, one on a level with the first floor opening to an external gallery, which would cut across the present windows, the other above, to go on to the allure behind the battlement. A long loop window near the top of this staircase on the south side of the turret is blocked up on the outside by the east wall of the present chapel. At the opposite angle, or south-west corner of the present chapel is another of Bishop Joceline's stair turrets, equally perfect, with doorways in the same situations as in the other, showing that the wing of Joceline's palace extended to this point and rather beyond it, as a doorway opens westward, now leading to nothing, but probably issuing originally to the external gallery on the top of the cloister. Part of the old wall joining to this turret on the west side has been preserved and now forms part of the wall of the later hall, and the jamb of one of the early windows remains between the turret and the first window of the hall.

The Great Hall, of which the ruins only remain, and the present chapel are both the work of Bishop Burnel in the time of Edward I., between 1274 and 1292, but not quite at the same time. There is an interval, probably of ten or twelve years, between them, and a slight difference in the character of the work. In the chapel it would appear that the materials of Bishop Joceline's chapel were used up to a considerable extent, but the beautiful groined vault and the elegant windows are Bishop Burnel's work; the west window is an alteration of a later date. The bell-

turret at the north-west angle is part of Bishop Burnel's work; the staircase is not so wide or so good as those of Bishop Joceline; and at the top of the turret one of the gurgoyles or large corbels with a very bold projection, as if to carry a water-spout, of Joceline's work is used to form the head of the staircase and support the bell-frame; the end of this is carved into a head of the character of the early part of the 13th century. At the west end of the chapel there appears to have been a rood-loft with a screen under the front inclosing the three doors and forming a sort of inner porch, the entrance to which was the great west door; at the north end was the door to the bell-turret, and at the south end the door to the vestry. Over the vestry was the priest's chamber, to which there was an entrance from the stair-turret, the doorway of which still remains. This being the bishop's private chapel, it was considered as all chancel, and no nave was required, and in the position which would be usual in the chancel of a parish church, just within the rood-loft, near the west end of the chancel, is the small low-side window, supposed to have been used for lepers or persons labouring under some infectious disease, who could be brought to the outside of the window and have the consecrated wafer, or Host, administered to them at the end of a cleft stick, according to the direction given in the rubric of some of the Roman missals, or could see the Host when held up for that purpose by the priest through the opening.

The great hall of Bishop Burnel has been a very magnificent piece of work, of which the north wall and west end, with the turrets at the angles, only remain. The windows are rather different from those of the chapel, and probably a few years later; the three turrets at the south-east, south-west, and north-west angles are closely

copied from the original one of Bishop Joceline, which remains at the north-east angle, connecting the hall with the chapel. At the west end of the great hall are the two doorways, showing the position of the screen and music gallery; the porch and the newel staircase to the solar or upper chamber have been destroyed, but marks of them remain. The windows of the solar remain, and are very elegant and highly finished, indicating a state apartment equivalent to a modern withdrawing room, the chimney remains, but the fire-place has been destroyed; there is no fire-place or chimney to the lower rooms, which have been the buttery and pantry only, and not a kitchen, as is commonly said; there are cupboards remaining recessed in the wall, a window blocked up and a doorway also blocked up at the west end, and which doubtless led to the kitchen, being at the end of the passage, between the buttery and pantry, according to the usual arrangement of mediæval halls and offices. The kitchen was a detached building, where the stables now are, and was connected with the hall by a passage only, according to the general custom of that age. The south-west turret contains a garderobe or closet on the first floor, with an entrance from the corner of the state apartment; this has a good groined vault, and the small loop windows are perfect; under is the square pit, into which a modern doorway was cut by Bishop Law through the wall, with a pointed head to it, but no arch. The rooms on the ground floor under the solar have been vaulted, as may be seen by the marks of the vaults in the walls, but the vaults have been all destroyed. In the north-west turret there is a staircase from the solar to the allure and the watch tower, but it rises from the solar or first floor room only, not from the ground. The north-east turret of the hall forms also the

south-west turret of the chapel, and in this there is a staircase from the ground to the allure.

The present gatehouse to the palace is plain work, of the 14th century, with square flanking turrets, a groined vault over the archway, the chains of a drawbridge, and the grooves of a portcullis. It was built by Bishop Ralph, of Shrewsbury, who also built the wall of enclosure and made the moat. This wall of enclosure has bastions, or towers, at intervals, with the usual allure, or passage, on the top of the wall behind the parapet, in which there are embrasures, or openings, and loopholes alternately. It was built for defence according to the most approved system of the age, and the gate-house is a very good guard-house of the 14th century, with vaulted chambers, loopholes, and windows widely splayed within, and with their heads formed of what is called "the shouldered arch," or square-headed trefoil, a very common form in the Edwardian period. There is a tradition that this fortification of the palace was made as a precaution against the monks of Bath, who threatened the life of the bishop, but there is no written authority for this. It is singular that the bishop's palace should have been so strongly fortified, while the precincts of the cathedral do not appear to have been fortified at all, or even enclosed with a wall, until a century afterwards, all the gatehouses of the close being the work of Bishop Beckington. But as the bishop was a sort of prince, or great noble of the district, it may have been considered necessary for his house to be fortified in the same manner as those of other nobles.

The peaceful character of this part of England is shewn in a remarkable manner by the absence of fortifications round the cathedral and its precincts; up to the middle of the 15th century they do not appear to have been fortified

at all, or even enclosed with a wall. During the Wars of the Roses, Bishop Beekington thought it necessary to erect a wall and gatehouses, but these fortifications appear to have been very slight, and the gatehouses more for show than for defence. The east end of the cathedral and the chapter house were outside the wall of enclosure, and though it is said that there was a wall round the chapter house, there appears to have been none round the lady chapel; and the vicar's close, though enclosed by a wall and gatehouse, can hardly be said to have been fortified. The larger district round the close, called the Liberty, was entirely outside the wall, and not enclosed at all, and yet in this district several of the prebendal houses were built before the end of the 15th century, and without any protection, unless the marshy character of the ground was considered sufficient. Of those other buildings of the chapter I propose to give some account in the next volume of the proceedings of the Society.

Parish of West Monkton in the Days of Queen Bess and James I.

BY R. K. MEADE KING, ESQ.

IN the depository of books and other documents belonging to the parish of West Monkton is preserved an ancient book, entitled "The Book of Accounts of the Parish of West Monkton, in the County of Somerset, as well for the Constables and Churchwardens, Collectors for the Poor, Waywardens, as for other Accountors whatsoever for the said Parish." From this book I have made several extracts, and now beg to submit them, with a few comments of my own, to the Somersetshire Archæological Society, believing they will prove interesting to its members, and useful as illustrating many passages in the History of Elizabeth and James I. They have also an especial local interest as evidencing the part which our ancestors bore in some of the most important events of those reigns as well as indicating the habits of the people of that age.

The accounts seem for the most part to have been neatly kept, and the entries to have been made with as much care and precision as are usually exhibited in the accounts of rural parishes in the present day; and the signatures of the parishioners attached to them (comparatively few being marksmen) attest the fact that, even in those early times, the village schoolmaster was not an unknown personage in West Monkton.

The extracts which I think the most deserving of attention are

I.—Those which relate to the maintenance of armour and the mustering of soldiers, the earliest accounts being for the year 1587. It must be borne in mind that at this period the Statute of Winchester, 13 Edw. I., was in force, by which “every man between the ages of 15 and 60 was to be assessed and sworn to keep armour according to the value of his lands and goods, and a view of this armour was to be taken twice in the year by constables chosen in every hundred.”* The obligation of keeping sufficient arms, according to each man’s estate, was also preserved by Stat. 5 Philip and Mary, c. 2, and magazines of arms were formed in different places, and generally in each county. About this time, also, the power of calling into arms and mustering the population of each county, given in earlier times to the Sheriff or Justices of the Peace or to special Commissioners of Array, began to be entrusted to a new officer entitled the Lord Lieutenant.†

In illustration of the foregoing remarks we find the following entries of receipts and payments in the Constable’s Accounts for the year 1587.

* 2 Hallam’s Constitutional History, 181. See also 1 Blackstone’s Com., 411.

† Idem 182, 183.

	£	s.	d.
Imprimis Received for the <i>Rate</i> of the Parishioners for the maintenance of armour	8	12	4
Item Received Collection gathered by Henry Sellick (then, I believe, owner of Walford) for the tithing for payment for armour & powder	4	10	2

PAYMENTS.

Paid to Porters for carriage of armour (probably to the maga- zines I have before alluded to)	1	4	0
1588. Item paid Whitley (in which hundred West Monkton is situated) to the Constable King towards the Collection of £10 for the hundred muster	5	4	

There are many similar entries as to the maintenance of armour, but none after 1603, the "Statutes of Armour" having been repealed in the reign of James I.

II.—I will refer to those extracts from the Constable's Accounts which relate to the raising of soldiers (some evidently by impressment), the arming them, training them, dispatching them for foreign service, and relieving them when disabled by wounds.

It must be borne in mind that all the regulations before referred to for the maintenance of armour and the hundred musters had regard to the preservation of internal peace, and not to the raising of men for foreign service. So early as the time of Edward III. the arbitrary levies for foreign service, which, under previous sovereigns, had been found so vexatious to the people, were declared illegal by

1 Edward III., c. 5, a statute which Hallam designates as one "of by no means inconsiderable importance in our constitutional history."* By this statute, subsequently confirmed by 4 Henry IV., c. 13, it was provided that no man should be compelled to go out of the kingdom at any rate, nor out of his shire but in cases of urgent necessity, nor should provide soldiers unless by consent of Parliament.† This statute continued in force throughout the reign of Elizabeth, though in many instances, as we shall presently see, it was practically disregarded by her.

It would appear, therefore, that during the reigns of Edward III. and his immediate successors, the successful resistance made by Parliament produced the discontinuance of compulsory levies for foreign warfare. "But under the house of Tudor, in conformity to their more despotic scheme of government, the salutary enactments of former times came to be disregarded, Henry VIII. and Elizabeth sometimes compelling the counties to furnish soldiers; and the prerogative of pressing men for military service, even out of the kingdom, having not only become as much established as undisputed usage could make it, but acquiring no slight degree of sanction by an Act, 4 & 5 Philip and Mary, c. 3, which, without repealing or adverting to the statutes of Edward III. and Henry IV., recognises, as it seems, the right of the Crown to levy men for service in war, and imposes penalties on persons absenting themselves from musters commanded by the King's authority to be held for that purpose."‡ Keeping in view, then, the foregoing observations, it appears to me that the following extracts from the West Monkton Constables' Accounts have a

* 2 Hallam's Constitutional History, 178.

† 1 Blackstone's Commentaries, 411.

‡ 2 Hallam's Constitutional History, p. 179

peculiar significance as authorities for the practice at that time of pressing soldiers, and as confirmatory of the statements of modern historians that Elizabeth, relying less on the legislative authority of Parliament than on her own undisputed power and the submission of her subjects, was wont to stretch her prerogative by compelling the counties to furnish soldiers for foreign warfare. Thus :

	£	s.	d.
1588. Received of Constable King			
of money paid him before for		18	4
service into Ireland			

These probably were soldiers sent to Ireland to oppose the landing of the Spanish Armada, of whom 5394 were lost off that coast in this year.*

PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
1588. Given press money at two			
several times ..			8

There are many similar entries.

PAYMENTS.

1592. Imprimis paid to the Constable			
of Whitley for a service into France		8	0
Item for a pair of musketts		6	0
Bullet bag			6

The two following entries are curious as showing the point of embarkation of the soldiers raised within the hundred of Whitley.

	£	s.	d.
Item paid at Bridgwater at the going			
forth of the soldiers		1	9

* 2 Rapin's History, 137, fol. ed

	£	s.	d.
Item with the wester limit of Whitley } for the fifth part of a Galliot } (I presume a small vessel or transport.)		5	4

RECEIPTS.

(Henry Sellick, Constable.)

1593. Imprimis received for a } collection made for the service } into Britton }	1	13	8
Item received of collection made for a } service into Jersey and Garnsey }	2	6	6

In reference to the two last entries it may be remarked that in 1592 Elizabeth entered into a treaty with Henry IV. of France to furnish him with 4,000 men and ammunition to recover Bretagne from the Spaniards, and she performed her engagement by sending the armament there under the command of Norris.*

PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
1593. Item paid to James Bullinge } for service into Brittani }	1	8	0
Ditto Jersey & Guernsey	1	3	0

RECEIPTS.

1599, 1600, 1601. Received of the } parishioners for 2 services into } Ireland 1st year }	2	6	4
Ditto 2nd year	3	9	6

WEST MONKTON.

1601. Imprimis received of the tithing } aforesaid for a service into Ireland } a whole rate }	1	13	19
--	---	----	----

* Rapin, vol. 2, p. 140.

In 1590 the rate was said to be "12d. of a yarde land," and in reference to the receipts for years 1599, 1600, 1601, it should be remembered that during these years large forces were sent to Ireland to quell a rebellion there which was aided by the Spaniards, who, in 1601, landed at Kinsale and took possession of the town, but were afterwards routed by the English.*

PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
1599—1603. Paid for 12 pounds of } powder		12	0
9 pounds of lead		1	0
Delivered to the trainers at Staplegrove 2 pounds and half.			
1601. Delivered to the trained men at Bathpool 5 pounds powder.			

It does not appear, so far as I can ascertain, that Elizabeth obtained the sanction of her Parliament for the levy of the above soldiers who were sent "on service" into Ireland, France, Brittany, Jersey, and Guernsey, or had any legal authority whatever for sending them on foreign service, but, in so doing, she seems to have relied solely on her own prerogative and the submission of her subjects.†

It appears, however, that in 1593, "the Parliament, taking into consideration the Queen's great expenses, both in defending the kingdom against the Spanish Invasion and in assisting the French King and the United Provinces, granted her an extraordinary aid of money. But it was inserted in the Act that so large and unusual a supply, granted to a most excellent Queen, who made so good use of the public money, should not be drawn into a pre-

* 2 Rapin's History, p. 155. 3 Sully's Memoirs, p. 118.

† Hume's History of England.

cedent." The laity granted three subsidies, together with six fifteenths, and the clergy two whole subsidies.* Wherefore we find under years 1592, 1593:

PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
Item for writing of two subsidy books			8

The following entries illustrate the obligation on the parish to provide for their wounded soldiers, as well as the care which was taken of them on their return from foreign service.

PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
1588. Paid at the coming home of } the Portugal soldiers		6	6

RECEIPTS.

1601. Item. Received of Inhabitants } a half rate for maimed soldiers		10	2
1603. Ditto		10	1

LAYED OUT.-

1603. Imprimis to George Roy for } maimed soldiers		17	4
For carriage of poor people and to } soldiers that travelled from the } wars for their relief		6	11
1610. Paid for maimed soldiers and } Hospitals at Wells Sessions		17	4
1612. Paid for maimed soldiers and } Hospitals at Taunton Sessions		12	8

The next entries deserving of notice are

* Rapin, vol. 2, p. 141.

III.—Those which relate to what is termed “Queen’s Silver.” They are as follows:

RECEIPT OF QUEEN’S SILVER.

	£	s.	d.
1592. Imprimis of Richard Cridland } for Monkton Town		19	9
Item of Thos. Prince for Gotten ..		10	0
Item of Nicholas Crosse for Overton ..		12	3

and throughout the subsequent years there are many similar receipts.

The following are entries of payments.

	£	s.	d.
1601. Item paid to Mr. Powlett for } the Queen’s Silver		5	7 4
To Mr. Speke ditto		5	7 4
To Thos. Fraunceis the first Queen’s } Silver		2	13 8

I can nowhere find the term “Queen’s Silver” used by historians as applicable to any branch of the royal revenues, although the somewhat analogous term of “Aurum Reginae” was employed about this time denoting a duty or sum paid to a queen consort. Probably it is synonymous with the term “subsidy,” now nearly represented by our modern land-tax, but this matter may be further elucidated by ascertaining what public office (if any) the persons to whom it was paid, viz., Mr. Powlet, Mr. Speke, and Mr. Fraunceis, at that time held. Mr. Powlet was without doubt a member of the family of Sir John Powlet, Marquis of Winchester, who was Lord of the Manor of West Monkton and sold it in 1572.

Hume* says “Subsidies and fifteenths are frequently

* History of England, vol. 6, p. 111.

mentioned by historians, but neither the amount of these taxes nor the method of levying them have been well explained."

Blackstone* says "The lay subsidy was usually raised by Commissioners appointed by the Crown or the great Officers of State."

The foregoing entries may possibly afford a clue to the mode in which these taxes were levied.

IV.—The following entries, also from the Constables' Accounts, are deserving of notice and suggest enquiries on matters of local interest.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
1592. Item received of Richard	}	4	0
Plentye for the relief of Taunton			

PAYMENTS.

1593. Item paid to Mr. Popham for	}	4	0
the relief of Taunton			
Ditto to James Bullinge for ditto	..	11	4
1611. Paid towards the relief of	}	11	0
Dunster and Minehead			

Whether these payments were obligatory or voluntary, or for what precise purpose they were made, does not appear, but this may possibly be elucidated by ascertaining whether Mr. Popham held any and what public office at that time, so as to enable us to judge whether the money was paid to him and others in their public character.

V.—The next entries are those relating to the relief of the poor.

It will be borne in mind that the first important statutory provision for the relief of the poor was that of the 43rd

* 1 Commentaries, p. 311.

Elizabeth, hence, in the book from which all the foregoing extracts are made, we should not expect to find any entries of payments for the relief of the poor prior to the year 1601, when the above statute was passed, and, in point of fact, it appears that prior to that time the only rates which were levied for the purposes of relief were exclusively for the relief of "maimed soldiers."

It should also be noted that the term "Overseer of the Poor" was unknown until the 39th of Elizabeth. By the 27th Henry VIII. and some subsequent statutes, persons were appointed to make "collections" for the poor on Sundays. Hence the words at the heading of our book, commencing in 1587, "Collectors for the Poor."

The 1st sec. of the above-mentioned Act of 43 Elizabeth directed the overseers to raise by taxation of the inhabitants "a convenient stock of flax, hemp, wool, thread, iron, and other necessary ware and stuff to set the poor on work." Accordingly I find the following entry made in the year 1603 (two years after the passing of the Statute), "Received one hatchet, one shoule, and a besgue," which I cannot doubt were handed over by the previous overseer, having been bought by the parish to set the poor to work.

The earliest payments towards the relief of the poor recorded in the West Monkton book are the following :

	£	s.	d.
1603. For carriage of poor people, and to soldiers who travelled from the wars for their relief	}	6	11
1611. Paid for bread and carriage of a poor man from Walford to Taunton			
Paid to a poor man that was borne from Walford to Taunton by the parish			
		6	
		7	

	£	s.	d.
1612. Paid for carriage of a poor woman	}		6
ditto			
Paid for carriage of the same woman	}		8
and her child from the 'Spital' (a			
hospital in West Monkton parish			
close to Taunton) back again to			
to Walford with meat and drink			
Paid to a poor man that had great loss	}		8
by fire			
1613. Paid to two men to bear a poor	}	1	0
man from the Spital to Walford in			
a barrow the 19th of April			
And bread and meat for the same man . .			2

It may be mentioned here that Walford is the parish boundary eastward; and it may be inferred from the foregoing entries that at this spot, where an ancient inn formerly stood, being the point of junction between the parishes of West Monkton and Creech St. Michael, the poor were transferred from the custody of one set of parish officers to that of the other.

The severity of our ancient laws for the suppression of vagrancy; and other infringements on personal liberty of a similar character have often been commented on by historians; and particularly a commission in July 1595, granted to Sir Thomas Welford, commanding him on notice by Justices of the Peace to seize, and in their presence to execute, such notable, rebellious, and incorrigible offenders as were worthy to be speedily executed, by martial law. This peremptory style of superseding the common law has been designated as "a stretch of prerogative without an adequate parallel."*

* 5 Hume's Hist. of England, 388. 1 Hallam's Constitutional History, 328.

But these and similar enactments and proclamations were clearly intended rather for the suppression of tumult, riot, and rebellion than for the punishment of vagrants merely. The Act of the 43rd Elizabeth, before quoted, which is the foundation of our present system of poor-law administration, was conceived in a just and humane spirit, and the extracts above given, which are probably among the earliest which any parish can furnish, indicating the mode in which relief, then for the first time rendered compulsory, was afforded, exhibit a judicious and considerate care for the wants of the destitute poor. Further evidence is afforded of the attention which at this period was paid to the wants of the poor, especially the sick poor, by the examination of the Overseers' Accounts for West Monkton for many subsequent years. Nor was this humane spirit confined to the limits of the parish of West Monkton; the following extracts from an account book for the adjoining parish of North Petherton, of a somewhat later date, show that there was no grudging of money to obtain the assistance of nurses when required, as well as the best surgical skill which the science of that day could produce.

NORTH PETHERTON.

Disbursements of Alex. Nowell, Overseer of the Poor.

	£	s.	d.
1680. To Susan Nation in lameness ..	2	0	
To her, more	3	6	
To intending of her	4	0	
To Curry the chirurgeon for her ..	2	0	
To keeping of Susan Nation at Bridgwater	5	0	
To Mr. Haviland for cutting off Susan } Nation's leg	4	0	0

The two next items tell in simple and touching phrase the result of all this well-intended care and treatment.

	£	s.	d.
For stretching her forth and shrouding her	3	8	
For 4 porters to carry her to church	2	6	

Making a total of £5 2s. 8d. expended for this poor woman's relief—an example of liberality to be remembered by Poor Law Guardians in succeeding ages.

VI.—Next in order are the Churchwardens' Accounts, which commence in 1590 and extend over a series of years. They present but few features of interest and are deserving of notice chiefly in connection with the recent discussions on the subject of church rates. One remarkable circumstance is that the sum raised by rate by no means constitutes the whole fund, and, in some years, not even the largest part of the fund which came into the hands of the churchwardens for maintaining the church and defraying the necessary expenses connected with the celebration of divine worship. The sources of this fund seem to have been multifarious. A certain amount was derived every year from payments for seats: thus we find in 1590 a payment to the churchwardens from Henry Sellick, the then owner of Walford, of 4d. for a seat, and similar payments from ten other parishioners whose names are enumerated, showing that at this early period pew-rents, or at least some payments analogous thereto, were in existence, and were applicable to the repairs of the church.

Another source of income arose from burials in the church, thus :

	£	s.	d.
1615. Received of Nicholas Crosse for } his wife to be buried in the church }	6	8	

And there are similar entries in the accounts of many other years. Sums were also received for "Knells."

There are likewise two or three entries of the following description :

	£	s.	d.
1593. Item received of Standfast for } that he refused to be warden		6	8
There is a remarkable entry in the year			
1607. Item to the building of the parish } Church of St. Dennis in Cornwall, with a hospital of St. Lawrence } with a chapel		2	6

I am not aware of any connection between that parish and West Monkton, but we may probably infer from the above entry, that it was the custom in those days as well as in our own, to ask for contributions towards the promotion of any meritorious objects, however unconnected they may be with the interests of those from whom aid is solicited, and however distant from the sphere of their observation and control.

These accounts also afford evidence that the practice which has been so frequently and justly condemned in modern times, of having recourse to the church rate as a means of re-imbursement for money expended (though foreign to the purposes for which the rate was made), which could not be legitimately charged elsewhere, is of older date than many of us suspect. Thus we find—

	£	s.	d.
1618. Item paid for maimed soldiers and } hospitals more than our rate came to }		3	0
(See constables' accounts supra.)			
Item to John Burd for a brief that was } delivered in the "Sizes" }		2	0

VII.—I will bring this paper to a close by a few extracts from the last accounts in the ancient book, under consi-

deration, being the Waywardens' Account for the year 1605.

The sum total received of the inhabitants during that year appears to have been £2 15s. 1d., nearly one half of which was disbursed to the "Pitchers" of the "Footways" and to the "Paviours," whose labours, we may hope, were not so productive of dust in the parish, as those of the "Macadamized" stone breakers of the present day. The remainder of the money collected, namely, £1 8s. 7d. was expended "about the mending of Bathpool bridge," which was subsequently, by order of Court of Quarter Session at Taunton, 21 James I., ordered to be repaired by the county, and has so continued to be repaired ever since.

There is no doubt that this reparation of the bridge by the parish of West Monkton was considered at that time a matter of public importance, and worthy of being commemorated; for the account concludes with "a note of those that brought stones and timber to the aforesaid bridge, and of those that laboured thereabout," and then follows a list of their names and of the services they rendered, which need not be detailed here. And with this transcript I will conclude;—hoping that as many illustrious names have been handed down to posterity and immortalised by their virtues and deeds of renown,—so may the names of these humble labourers of West Monkton recorded in the archives of our parish be remembered as men who, in their lowly sphere of duty, faithfully performed the useful work allotted to them, and have gone to their rest with the consciousness, we may also be permitted to hope, that they have not "spent their strength for nought, and in vain."

On Roman Remains
DISCOVERED AT CAMERTON,
SIX MILES FROM BATH,
ON THE LINE OF THE FOSS-WAY TO
ILCHESTER.

BY THE REV. PREBENDARY SCARTH, M.A.

IN February, 1816, the Rev. J. Skinner communicated to Samuel Lysons, Esq., F.R.S., the particulars of certain Roman Remains which had been found in the year 1814 in a field called "Eighteen Acres," in the parish of Camerton, of which he was Rector. These appear to have been read to the Society of Antiquaries but, as far as I can ascertain, never published. The MS. was kindly lent to me by the Rev. Samuel Lysons, of Hempstead Court, near Gloster, who inherited his uncle's property, and into whose hands it has come; and, as it contains information which is valuable for the Somersetshire Archæological Society to possess, with the permission of the owner of the MS., I now make known the particulars. The object of

our Society being to collect together and record all well authenticated discoveries, and to prevent any fact of historical value passing out of memory, I need offer no apology for placing the notice before them.

Camerton is situated a little more than six miles from Bath on the road from Bath through Shepton Mallet to Ilchester, *i.e.* on the line of the old foss-road, which has been traced from Lincoln almost in a direct line to Ilchester, but the whole course is not given in any of the Itinera, it will be seen by referring to the Map of Roman Briton, published in the *Monumenta Historica Britannica*.

The Foss, says Horsley, proceeds directly from Bath to Lincoln. I believe it has been continued beyond Bath as far as Ilchester at least, if not to the sea—Dr. Stukely thinks to Seaton. Great part of this, too, *viz.*, that which is in the very heart of the kingdom has had no part of an “iter” on it, but the latter part of the 6th iter, and the middle of the 8th from Venonæ to Lindum have no doubt been on the other parts of it. It still bears the name of the Foss-way from Lincoln to Bath and beyond it. Some affirm it to have been continued in a pretty direct line beyond Lincoln to the sea coast. Mr. Leman says in his MS. notes to Horsley (see copy in Lit. and Sci. Inst. Bath), “I myself found it very perfect from Lincoln to Ludford.” He says the Foss-way came from the sea coast of Lincolnshire and ran through Ludford, Lincoln, Brough, Newark, Thorpe, East Bridgford, Willoughby, Leicester, Highcross, Harewoods House near Darnford, Morton, Stow, Cirencester, Eastongrey, Bath, Ilchester, and, as Stukely thought, straight over Wind Whistle Hill to Seaton, or, as others have supposed from Ilchester to Honiton and Exeter, and he gives the portions of the 6th and 8th Itinera as follows:

Iter 6th, portion of the Foss-way (from London to Lincoln).

RATIS	Leicester	MP. XII.
VEROMETO	n. Willoughby	MP. XIII.
MARGIDVNO	n. East Bridgeford	MP. XIII.
AD PONTEM	n. Thorp	MP. VII.
CROCOCALANO	Brugh	MP. VII.
LINDO	Lincoln	MP. XII.

Iter 8, portion of Foss-way (from York to London).

LINDO	Lincoln	MP. XIV.
CROCOCALANO	Brugh	MP. XIV.
MARGIDVNO	n. East Bridgeford	MP. XIV.
VERNOMETO	n. Willoughby	MP. XII.
RATIS	Leicester	MP. XII.
VENONIS	High Cross	MP. XII.

Some further observations on the origin and construction of the Foss-road may be useful on the present occasion, I therefore quote the following passage from a paper, by Dr. Guest, on the four Roman roads.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL JOURNAL. VOL. XIX.

P. 100.—“According to Jeffrey of Monmouth, King Belinus, son of Molmutius, constructed the ‘four roads,’ some four centuries before CHRIST. One of them “he ordered to be made of stone and mortar, the length of the island, from the sea of Cornwall to the shore of Caithness.” . . . This, in all probability, was intended to represent the Foss.

P. 101.—Higden repeats the story of King Belinus and says “The first and greatest of the four roads is called the Foss and stretches from south to north from its commencement in Cornwall

at Totenesse to the extreme point of Scotland at Catenesse. To speak more accurately, however, according to others, it begins in Cornwall, and, stretching through Devon and Somerset, runs by Tetbury on Cotswold, by Coventry to Leicester, and thence over the open wolds, ending at Lincoln."

P. 104.—Henry of Huntingdon says, "The fourth road, the greatest of all, begins at (Totenes) Totness, and ends in Catnes, in other words, runs from the commencement of Cornwall to the limits of Scotland, and this road passes across the island from the south-west to the north-west. It is called 'Fossa,' and passes through Lincoln.

P. 105.—The Foss is mentioned in several Anglo-Saxon charters, some of which date as early as the 8th century. All the estates described in them can still be pointed out. With one exception they lay along the Foss, north of Bath, and within some fifty or sixty miles of that city. The exceptional charter refers to an estate at Wellow, three miles south of Bath. It is no doubt a forgery, but could not have been fabricated later than the 12th century, and, therefore, is good authority for our present purpose. To the same century belongs the charter which is quoted by Gale, and by which Henry I. granted permission to Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, to divert the 'Chimum Fossa,' so as to make it pass through his town of Newark. We may then reasonably conclude that the whole of the Roman road between Ilchester and Lincoln was known as the Foss during the 12th century, and probably, at a much earlier period.

South of Ilchester the Roman road has been im-

perfectly traced. It seems to point to Seaton, which is generally taken to be the Roman *Mari-dunum*. We must not lay too much stress on the phrase 'from Totness to Caithness,'—it was merely a proverbial expression to denote the entire length of the island, and may be found even in Nennius."

- P. 114.—The name Foss has given rise to some strange hypotheses. It has been supposed that the road was so called because it was one of the hollow ways which marked out the lines of ancient British traffic; but, in truth, the Roman character of the Foss is, perhaps, more decided than that of any other highway in the kingdom. Roman writers give the name *Fossa* not merely to open, but also to the covered drain, e.g. '*fossa patens*' '*fossa cæca*.' In making a causey the Romans first removed the surface soil, in other words, made a '*fossa*' to receive the gravel or hard materials. As the *fossa* which served for a covered drain retained the name when filled with stones, brushwood, and covered in with soil, so, I believe, the road-makers' '*fossa*' kept its name, even when it appeared as a finished causey. '*Fossatum*', which, by later Latinists was used as a synonym of *fossa*, denotes a causey in charters from 11th to 15th century. The great Roman road which we call the Foss appears to have been termed the foss *κατ' ἐξοχήν*—the Causey.
- P. 115.—The term '*fossa*' is used for a causey in Dorset. Speed places Dorchester on the Foss. The Dorsetshire Foss was no part of the highway about which we have been speaking. There is

a large raised causeway running directly from Dorchester for ten miles together, to a place called Egerton Hill, where the remains of a Roman camp are to be seen called by that name.

P. 116.—The Watling Street and the Foss were no doubt throughout their whole course Roman causeys, and there can be little doubt that in the 12th century these magnificent works existed in nearly their original state.”

The distance of Camerton from Bath, a little above six miles, will probably warrant our supposing it to have been the first Roman posting station out of Aquæ Solis, on the Foss Road in a south-westerly direction.

Mr. Skinner very carefully recorded every thing he found, and his MS. is accompanied by a map, in which is noted the place where each relique was discovered, and every foundation traced. In the map which accompanies his MS. ten places are marked, where foundations, coins, pottery, &c., were discovered. The houses, he says, were of small dimensions, and built on each side of the Foss Road in the same manner as our ordinary villages. He could not ascertain how far those buildings extended, but he had reason to think that they continued for a considerable distance.

These remains are marked on the ordinance map, and are one mile from the Red Post Inn. Collinson in his *History of Somerset*, slightly mentions them, but neither he, nor any other writer, as far as I can ascertain, has given any description of them. Before the time of Mr. Skinner becoming rector of Camerton no notice seems to have been taken of them, although coins, incidently found in that locality, appear to have been collected by the owners of the properties on which they were found. Unhappily, when

the ground was enclosed, no record was kept of what was discovered, while in clearing the ground quantities of foundation stones have been removed, and thus the sites and extent of many buildings are lost. Mr. Skinner was led to excavate one building by observing the inequality of the ground; and, after opening it, he came to the foundations of a building, which he describes as having a front wall towards the road 76 feet long, and another circular wall enclosing a space, and containing within the enclosure five rooms of different dimensions. This building will be best understood by reference to the accompanying plan.

A—a large apartment, 28 feet by 25, the floor apparently of terras.

B—a small room, 9 feet square, in which was found the fragment of an inscribed stone, a fragment of the lower part of a statue of a female figure, and fragments of painted stucco.

C—a room, 9 feet by 12.

DDD—courts, in which did not appear any remains of foundations except the fragment of one at G, being circular; but many fragments of pottery and some Roman coins were found.

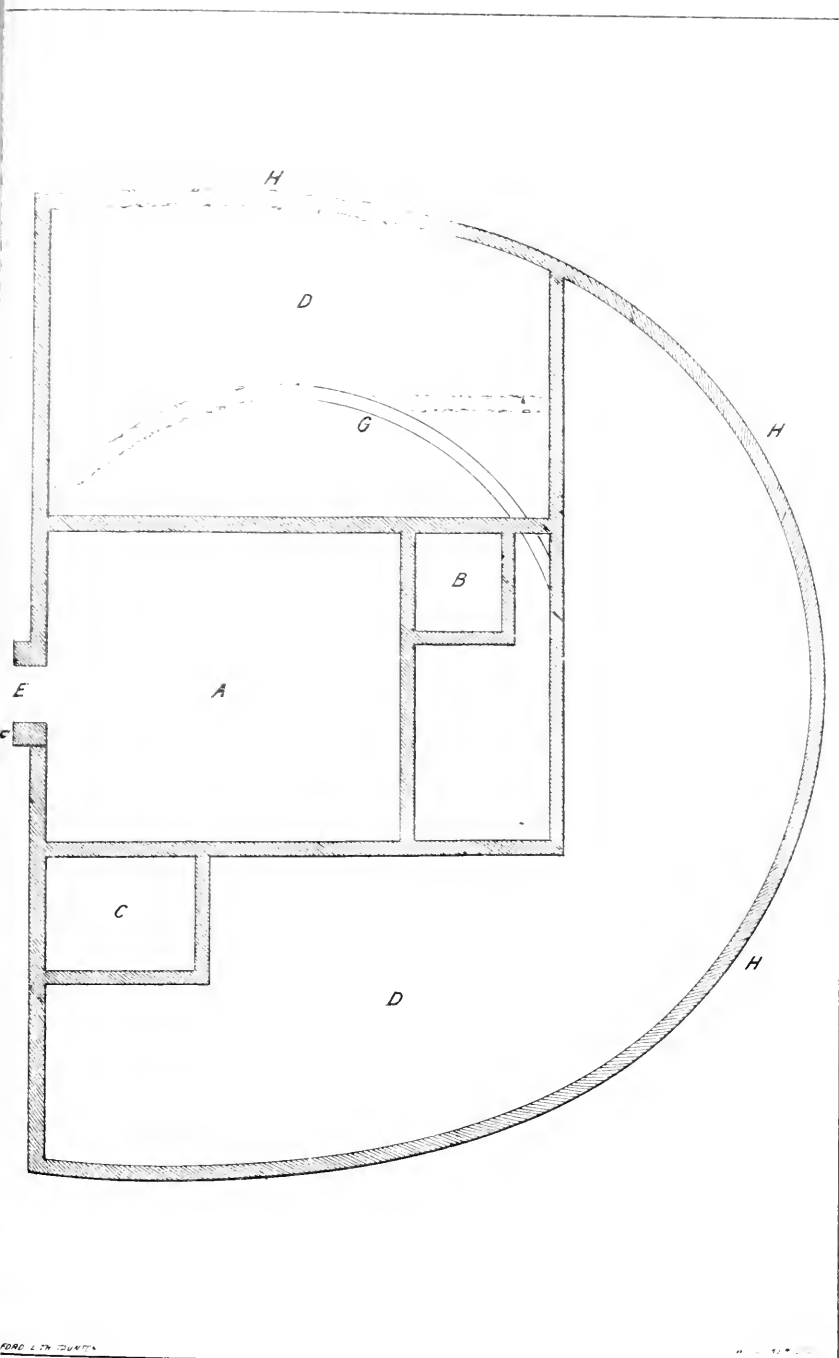
E—entrance, 5 feet wide.

F—square piece of freestone, $2\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 feet.

G—circular wall, supposed part of a former building.

HHH—boundary wall.

Mr. Skinner thinks that this building had succeeded to a former, as old materials were found worked up, and stones having stucco on them used in the foundations; also the circular wall, marked G, appeared to be part of an older building. A quantity of gypsum was found near the entrance, and the remains of a mortar or hand mill near it. In the apartment marked C a flue was found, but no



Roman Remains at Camerton.

appearance of pavement for the floor. An iron spear and an arrow head were found three feet below the surface in the room marked A, and amongst the rubbish and founda-stones a number of brass coins, some of which were notched, as though they had been proved by a file to try the metal. A stylus and two bronze fibulæ were also found. The floor of this chamber was laid with mortar, composed of lime and small shells and sand, and about two inches in thickness. At the entrance to it was found a squared piece of freestone, which seems to have formed the base of a pillar, so that the entrance was probably adorned with a pair of columns. Within the circuit of the enclosing circular wall was found a quantity of pottery and some coins. Mr. Skinner gives a catalogue of the things found within and near the foundations of this edifice.

- 1.—Part of a female figure, and a stone spear-head lying near it.
- 2.—A stone, bearing an inscription on it, found in the small chamber marked B,

APIVS
CONDEDIT
BASSO ET QVINTIANO COS.

which seems to fix the date of the building, A.D. 289, when Bassus and Quintianus were consuls, *i.e.* in the first and second year of Carausius.

- 3.—A small sculptured stone, contained only the feet of four figures. These Mr. Skinner has restored conjecturally.
- 4.—The capital of a freestone column, measuring 20 inches in diameter.
- 5.—Fragments of Samian pottery and pieces of painted stucco.

- 6.—Coins of Vespasian, Constantius, Constantinus, Tetricus, Maximianus, and Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, also a British coin of rude workmanship.
- 7.—Pieces of glass and two fibulæ.
- 8.—The half of a mill-stone (said by Mr Skinner to be the same quality of stone as that found in the pen pits, Stour-head, Wilts), and part of a stone mortar, and two large pebble stones, which seem to have been used for grinding; these were found in the gypsum and mortarium near the entrance.

Besides the edifice now described, the ground-plan of which is given, the foundations of six others, running parallel to the Foss-road were uncovered, and two on the opposite side; and in all of these fragments of Roman pottery and coins were found. Mr. Skinner says: "I have no doubt many interesting remains still continue hid beneath the surface." In the one which was opened August, 1815, walls of a building were traced, 30 feet by 18, and a flue laid open. An iron spear-head was found three feet below the surface, fourteen coins and a stylus among the rubbish, which consisted of building and flat-roofing stones; also a leaden circle or armlet, representing a coiled snake, was dug out.

Mr. Skinner has made careful drawings of the various articles found. The specimens of Samian ware are very good. The potter's stamps are GLVPPI.M* and OF. SECVN. This second piece he describes as of inferior quality, the clay being only coloured on the surface with vermillion, and the interior being brown clay, whereas the finer specimens are coloured throughout. One fragment of a vessel of stone-ware was found, and he states that he

* Both are given by Mr. Wright in his list. See *Celt, Roman and Saxon*, p. 470-473. He writes the first GLVPEIM.

discovered eight different kinds of pottery, from the thick kind employed in the amphora, to the smallest articles of earthenware.

Mr. Skinner has also given a list of coins found at Camerton, chiefly in the eighteen acre field, where these buildings have stood.

		Copper	Silver
Claudius	..	2	
Nero	..	1	
Vespasianus	..	5	1
Antoninus. P.	..	2	
M. Antoninus	..	1	
Severus Alexander		1	
Gordianus	..	1	
Constantius	..	33	
Constans	..	1	
Crispus	..	1	
Magnentius	..	1	
Gallienus	..	5	
Constantinus	..	9	
Con. Nob. Cæs.		2	
Victorinus	..	1	
Maximianus	..	1	
Carausius	..	3	
Alectus	..	1	
Roma	..	3	
Constantinopolis		1	
Tetricus	..	13	
Faustina	..	1	
Julianus	..	1	
Quintilianus	..	1	
Valentinianus	..	1	
Apparently British		1	

The total number found by Mr. Skinner amounts to 110, some of which are illegible, and therefore not classified by him. They nearly extend throughout the period of the the Empire. I have also in my possession a coin of Postumus, found at Camerton A.D. 1862.

On the opposite side of the Foss-road, and nearly facing the line of the foundations just described, is a large barrow, measuring 20 ft. in perpendicular height, 100 ft. in diameter and 350 ft. in circumference. This barrow, which may be seen from the present turnpike road, and has a tree growing on the top, was opened by the Rev. J. Skinner, who says that in the autumn of 1815 he had an opening made in it by four colliers and penetrated to the centre. It was composed of loose stones and rubble. The ground for upwards of twenty feet before coming to the centre exhibited marks of burning, as the soil for an inch and a half or two inches in depth was black with charcoal and ashes. Some pieces of burnt wood were two inches in length and as thick as a man's finger. In their progress the workmen discovered a small whetstone and the jaw-bone of a sheep, with some other bones of animals, but the ashes of the person for whom the tumulus had been raised were removed (as was perceived by the mixture of the earth), and that a shaft had been sunk from the top of the barrow to four feet in depth below the natural surface of the soil. "We therefore," says he, "proceeded no further, but closed the opening we had made. The tree at the top of the barrow is apparently fifty or sixty years old and must have been planted subsequently to the opening, but the old people in the neighbourhood knew nothing when it was made." This barrow is conjectured to have been made prior to the Roman Settlement, and is probably a remnant of the ancient inhabitants of this part of Somerset. A flint

knife or spear-head was found near Woodboro' House, it is now in the possession of Savage Waite, Esq., Sept. 13, 1862. The field in which it was found is called 'The Hayes.' Not far from this barrow some primitive interments were come upon on opening a quarry close adjoining the Foss-way at the point where the Radstock road leaves the Foss. These contained fragments of rude brown pottery, bones of animals and human bones, some burnt and some not. The graves were sunk about five feet into the rock, and were about the same in diameter. The bottom was laid with a thick coat of red clay. One of these is so close to the ditch of the Foss-way that it seems to have been dug into when the Romans were making the road. Mr. Skinner conjectures from this and the rude character of the pottery that these graves were dug prior to the Roman occupation of the island. He has given accurate drawings of the pieces of rude pottery found in the graves, as well as the bones, among which are the tusks of a wild boar. Three flint arrow-heads also were found in a barrow at Shorsecombe, a hamlet partly belonging to Camerton parish. The land where these remains, both British and Roman, have been found, was formerly a common about 200 acres in extent, the enclosures have taken place within the last hundred years, and probably since the present century commenced. In the progress of cultivation many barrows have been removed. Mr. Skinner has recorded the destruction of some. He says, "There was one at Marksbury on an elevated ground, commanding an extensive view, on the spot where the parsonage is now built. On digging the foundations of the house this barrow was laid open and a skeleton discovered in a cist, having a large glass bead lying near it; it is now in the possession of Mrs. Barter, wife of the rector of Timsbury. I made a

drawing of it for Mr. Douglas," and he gives a rough sketch of it. This probably was the interment of some ancient British female of distinction.

Mr. Skinner in his earnest pursuit after antiquarian knowledge sometimes appears to have allowed his zeal to carry him beyond the just limit of speculation. Thus he attempted to prove Camerton to be the ancient Camalodunum of Tacitus.

Some of his papers are printed in Mr. Phelps' *History of Somerset*, and he has left much in MS. attempting to establish his point. His arguments were met and refuted by the late Sir R. C. Hoare, who printed a pamphlet for private circulation in answer to Mr. Skinner's arguments, in which he cites authorities for shewing that Colchester, or rather Lexden, near Colchester, was the true site of that important Roman stronghold. We are, however, greatly indebted to Mr. Skinner for preserving a record of the Roman and British remains found in his parish, and for faithfully recounting whatever appeared to him worthy of notice. If, therefore, his zeal may have misled him in any particular point, we may well pardon its excess in the recollection of the valuable example he has left to all clergy and gentlemen resident in the country, faithfully to record whatever discovery may be brought to their notice, and his success should stimulate them to investigation whenever there appears reason to believe ancient remains exist, for by such investigations we are continually gaining new and accurate ideas of the Roman occupation of this island.

On Roman Remains

FOUND ON THE SITE OF THE NEW
BUILDING ADDED TO THE
BATH MINERAL WATER HOSPITAL, 1859,
TOGETHER WITH A
FRAGMENT OF AN INSCRIPTION
FOUND THERE AT THE SAME TIME.

BY THE REV. PREBENDARY SCARTH, M.A.

IN preparing the ground for the site of the addition to the Mineral Water Hospital in this city many Roman remains were discovered, and portions of a tessellated pavement of plain pattern, much earthenware of a coarse kind, and coins of the Lower Empire. But amongst these a fragment of an inscription on a marble slab deserves particular attention. There can be no doubt about its authenticity, as the party who picked it up, and who afterwards united the broken portions, is well known to me.

The letters are as follows and particularly well cut:—



There can be little doubt that after the word "Deae" came "Svli" or "Svliminervæ." The fragment of the letter "S" is sufficiently indicated, and, as we have four altars found in Bath dedicated to this tutelary goddess, as well as a tomb to her priest, there can be little hesitation about the reading in the present instance.

In the second line we have the two first names of the dedicator clearly indicated, "Ti[berivs] Cl[avdivs]," the triangular stop after each being clearly cut; and we have the commencement of the cognomen "T" which may be supplied by any of the Roman names beginning with that letter.

The third line commences with the letters "Sollen," the last letter being broken away, but sufficient remaining to leave no doubt what letter it was; and this word may be "Sollennes," with reference probably to the vows paid to the goddess, and which the tablet commemorated.

The letters in the fourth line, which are so far broken as to render conjecture very insecure, are cut much smaller than the others.* It is to be regretted that no more of this inscription was to be found, but every care was taken at

* See also *Gent. Mag.*, Aug., 1862.

the time to recover any other fragment that might be brought to light. The form of the letters and the clearness of the cutting indicate an early period, and the fact of the tablet being *marble* helps to authenticate other marble tablets said to have been found in England, but the authenticity of which have been disputed in consequence of marble inscriptions having been so seldom found.

Thus Whitaker, in his *History of Richmondshire*, vol. i., p. 150, speaking of the Roman remains at Rokeby, Yorkshire says, "Among these is one square marble urn, which tradition actually asserts to have been found at Rokeby; *nothing, however, but the testimony of eye-witnesses can render this assertion credible.* That the Romans never imported marble into Britain, nay, that they never wrought the marble rocks which were extant in the island, are two propositions to which I know of no exceptions. Where has an altar or inscription been found in the *Britannia Romana* in any other matter than the stone of the country? The Greta and the Teese presented to the Roman workman beds of limestone, sufficiently obedient to the chisel and susceptible of the finest polish. But, from whatever cause, they universally neglected these elegant materials for the rough and untractable freestone of the place. It was reserved for the monks and their lay contemporaries to avail themselves of these treasures." We have, however, in this recent discovery a clear contradiction of this assertion. Here is a marble slab found, dedicated in all probability to a well-known local divinity, and this discovery may give weight, not only to the assertion that the marble urn at Rokeby was found in the Roman station there, but also go far to authenticate other marble tablets said to have been found in this island.

Mr. C. Roach Smith, in his illustrations of Roman

London, p. 24, has given a drawing and description of a marble tablet found in the Tenter Ground, in Goodman's Fields, near the Minories, in 1787, which is now in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He says "The slab is of native green marble about 15 in. by 12 in., and 3 in. thick." The inscription is as follows:—

D. M.

FL AGRICOLA. MIL.

LEG. VI. VICT. V. AN.

XLII. DX ALBIA

FAVSTINA - CONIVGI

INCOMPARABILI

F. C

It is inscribed by Albia Faustina to her *incomparable* husband, Flavius Agricola, of the 6th Legion, surnamed "The Victorious." This Legion, he observes, was also styled "Pia Fidelis" and came into Britain from Germany in the reign of Hadrian, as appears from another inscription found in Rome.

Another marble tablet, said to have been found in Bath, is preserved at Exeter, whither it is said to have been sent to Dr. Musgrave, who then resided there. I saw it in 1857 by the kindness of the present possessor. The inscription runs thus:—

D. M.

CAMILLVS

SATVRNALIS CA

MILLE NATVLE PAT

RONE MERENTISSIME

FECIT.

The finding of the fragment of a marble slab on the site of the new buildings of the Mineral Water Hospital seems

to authenticate this one which has hitherto been considered doubtful.

The marble tablet said to have been found at Wroxeter, which is now in the Museum at Shrewsbury, is, with more probability, thought to have been brought from abroad.

The white marble of which the Bath slab is composed is not found in England, although it is said to be found at Connemara, in Ireland. The marble resembles the Italian white marble.

The tessellated pavement laid open when the above remains were found was of a very rude description. The pattern consists of the common fret in white and blue tesserae. Wood records* that in digging the foundation of the General Hospital (now called the Mineral Water Hospital) in 1738, he came upon Roman remains which he describes as the "Vestigia of part of the Prætorium," and he gives a plan of these remains, which consist of a tessellated floor and some flue tiles. He mentions, also, a deep hole for ashes (and these pits have also been found in preparing the foundation for the present new building), and two ditches, each 2 ft. 6 in. broad. The portions of mosaic pavements were respectively 6 ft. broad and 18 ft. broad, and filled with circles 2 ft. 9 in. in diameter. Also two steps of 6 in. rise in each step, and a floor paved with common stone, the level of which was 12 in. higher than the others, and a wall of 2 ft. 3 in. thickness. Under the south west corner of the hospital old building wheat was found. The wheat, pavement, and hypocaust were found 6 ft. below the surface of the ground, and the remains at least 3 ft. above the gravel or natural soil.

Under the Blue Coat School, which is the next building adjoining the Hospital to the east, another pavement was

* See Description of Bath, chap. vii., p. 270.

found in 1860, when the School House was being rebuilt. It is likewise of very coarse execution, and the pattern consists of the figures of dolphins, one of which is destroyed, the other much injured, and two other animals, one of which is a sea-horse, the other an animal with the head and hoofs of a deer, the hinder part of which is broken away. These figures have red streamers flying from different parts of the body, as may be seen in other pavements found in this country. The tesserae are red, blue, brown and white cubes. This is now laid down in one of the anti-chambers of the School House. These floors have belonged to buildings situated just within the ancient walls of the city. In front of the Mineral Water Hospital is a portion of the mediæval walls which, upon examination have been found to be built upon the foundation of the Roman city wall.

The following is a list of remains found in excavating for the foundation of the new building added to the Bath Mineral Water Hospital, in addition to the marble tablet, and which are now in the Bath Literary and Scientific Institution.

Cinerary Urn, imperfect

Bowl, of red ware

Oval Chafing Dish, grey, unglazed earthenware

Fragments of ditto

Small Vase, entire

Fragments of Samian and other Pottery

Some Tesserae

Six fragments of Amphoræ

Seventeen ditto light red Earthenware, doubtful

Two perfect Bricks

One fragment of Tile, scored

One ditto Roofing Tile

Five fragments of Wall Plaster

One small light red coloured Vessel, turned in a lathe

One elongated glass Unquentry

Four other glass Bottles, not Roman.

BRONZE AND BONE IMPLEMENTS.

Part of large bronze Fibula

Liquid Measure, bronze

Ring, with engraved stone

Portions of a bronze Measure

Two bone Hair Pins

Portion of a Comb

Two fragments of Carved Ivory

Nine Boars' Tusks

Four Horns of Animals, apparently goats

Two fragments of Stags' Antlers.

Key, not Roman, and many fragments of earthenware of doubtful date.

ROMAN COINS.

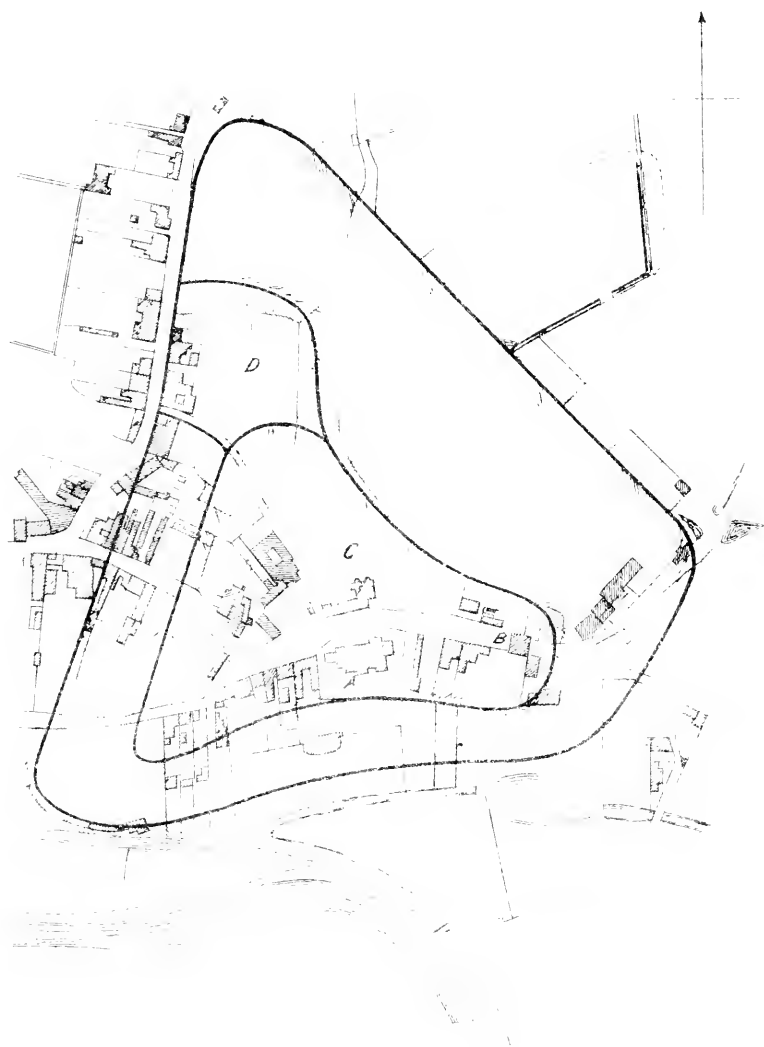
Trajan	2	Valentinian	2	Gratianus <i>silver</i>	
Hadrian	1	Valens	4	„ <i>copper</i>	2
Gallienus	2	Arcadius	1	Populus	
Victorinus	4	Allectus (?)	1	Romanus	1
Tetricus	4	Valerianus	1	Julia Paula (?)	1
Aurelian	1	Valentinus	1	Maximus	1
Constantine	7	Claudius		Urbs Roma	2
Carausius	4	Gothicus	1	Illegible	43
Constantius	5	Byzantium	1		—
„ junior	2	Geta, Billov		Total	95

The coins embrace a period from A.D. 98 to A.D. 408.

Earthworks at Langport.

BY THE REV. F. WARRE.

A GLANCE at the map of Somerset cannot fail to convince us that in the times when the two sides of the Parret were occupied by tribes not always at peace with each other, the site of the town of Langport must have been a point of very great strategetical importance. The eastern boundary of the broad marsh through which the Parret runs (in those days if not a continuation of the estuary of the Uxella certainly an impassable morass) here approaches the bank of the river so nearly that from the neck of land upon which the town of Langport is situated to the rising ground on the other side of the river is not more than a few hundred yards, while above and below this point for many miles the marsh is of very considerable breadth, and, even in these days, after a continuance of wet, would present no slight obstacle to the advance of an invading army. The road leading to Taunton now passes over this narrow strip of marsh, and a bridge here unites the eastern or Belgic bank of the river with the western, which was occupied by the Danmonii. I should here mention that



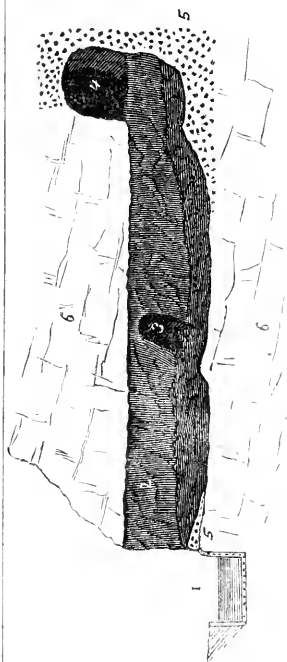
*A Church B Hanging Chapel
C St Vincent's Grounds
D Enclosure*

the river Parret-was probably the final boundary between the aboriginal Danmonii and the invading tribe of the Belgæ, known in the Welch triads as the men of Galedin. And no doubt the same topographical conditions which render it the best situation for a bridge at the present time, being such as would be very little, if at all, changed by the lapse of years, would be sure to have made it in those days the site, if not of a bridge, at least of a ford or ferry of great importance. It is very improbable that a passage between two hostile tribes of such importance as this must have been should have been left without any artificial fortification, and the earthworks I am about to describe shew that whichever tribe possessed it was well aware of its strategetical value. At the eastern and highest point of this neck of land still exist the earthen ramparts which once defended a large town, which, from its three-fold arrangement, I suppose to have been intended for permanent occupation and which is probably of very early date. It is in form an irregular triangle, bounded on the south by the river Parret, on the west by the Bridgewater road, and on the east and north, I believe, by the parish of Huish Episcopi. This outer enclosure, which I suppose to have been intended for cattle, contains a much smaller triangular space, defended by a strong rampart which, on the south side, runs along the top of the hill just outside the churchyard and extends in an easterly direction as far the Hanging Chapel and several hundred yards to the west of the churchyard. The eastern and western sides run in the same direction as those of the larger enclosure. This I believe to have been occupied by the people who took refuge here in time of danger. This enclosure contains besides the Church, the Hanging Chapel and several other houses, the residence and great part of the grounds belonging

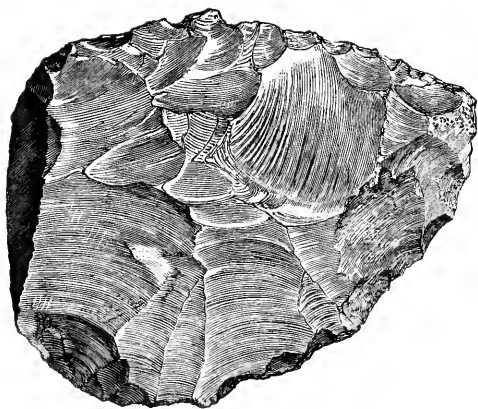
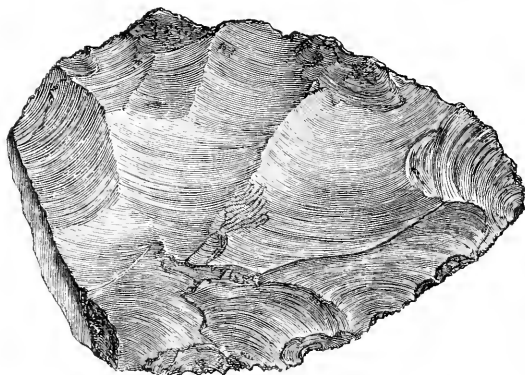
to Mr. Stuckey ; both these enclosures are traversed by the road leading to Ilchester. At the very obtuse apex of the inner triangle there appears to have been a third irregular enclosure, marked D in the accompanying plan, very strongly fortified, bounded on the west by the external rampart and on the other sides by works indicated on the plan. This I imagine to have been the stronghold or, if I may so speak, the keep of the place, but the whole area has been so much tampered with by modern occupation that it is impossible to speak positively as to its original extent. The same cause has rendered it very difficult to fix the position of the original entrances, but I think one was through the lane opening into the Bridgwater road and another at the eastern corner, at which point there appear vestiges of something like flanking works. On the western side of the river there are evident signs of earthworks on both sides of the Taunton road, one seemingly intended to strengthen the least abrupt ascent from the river, but these have been so mutilated by the railway and modern agriculture that I cannot venture upon any conjecture as to their original plan. That this site has been occupied in after times by the Romans is clear from the tiles and other remains of that people which have from time to time been found there.



*Various Views of a Flint
Instrument, of the Spear-head
Type, found in Wookey Hole
Hyena Den.—Natural Size.*



1. Canal.
2. Vertical Section of Antrum.
3. Upward-tending Passage.
4. Vertical Fissure.
5. Undisturbed Breccia.
6. Dolomitic Conglomerate.



Wookey Hole Wyena Den.

BY W. BOYD DAWKINS, B.A. OXON, F.G.S.,
II. M. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

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- XVI. The Somerset of the Later Pliocene.
- XVII. Subsequent Changes in the District.
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THERE are, perhaps, no researches of greater interest than those of archæo-geology, by which man is traced backwards in time until the clue is lost amid a group of animals that has been extinct longer than we can compute, and by which he is proved to have existed under circumstances differing most entirely from those now obtaining in the same region, under a different climate, and at a time when the relations of sea and land were altogether different. And this startling result of the combination of geology with archæology, so unexpected, and so completely subversive of our pre-conceived notions, having met with, during the last fifty years, two out of the three inevitable objections which, according to Professor Agassiz, all new and startling facts in science must encounter, first, "that it is not true," and secondly, "that it is contrary to religion," has now happily arrived at the stage in which people say "everyone knew it before." Some of the data contributing to this settlement of the vexed question were contributed by the exploration of the Hyena-den at Wookey Hole, of which a detailed account* has already been published; I will, therefore, altogether omit the details, which are to be found elsewhere, and, after briefly showing its relation to a system of caverns, will dwell at greater length on its more important features, its fauna, and the indisputable traces of man found in it.

II.—The Mendips, like all other limestone districts, are deeply indented by combs and ravines, at the upper end of which is frequently a cavern, and always one or more at their sides. They are but the main trunks through which the drainage of the district passes, and the side-caverns are but the channels of subterranean feeding

* Quarterly Geo. Journ., vol. xviii., part 2, no. 70, p. 115, and do. vol. xix., part 2, no. 74.

rivulets. And, as many of these have altered their course, either on a change of level, or the widening and deepening of other channels, the caverns through which they formerly flowed have become dry. The process, indeed, by which all caverns in limestone districts are formed enables us to realise fully the wonderful circulation of matter prevading all nature, and the slow, insensible way in which she produces some of the grandest of her works. The rain after absorbing an infinitely small portion of carbonic acid from the air falls upon the limestone, and disappears through the small fissures caused by the drying and upheaval of the rock from the depths of the sea, and by the contortions of its layers consequent upon volcanic action. The carbonic acid as the drops pass onwards forming a chemical union with the insoluble carbonate of the rock, changes it into the soluble bicarbonate of lime. They unite to form a stream which flows along the various fissures, dissolving minute portions of its bed and exchanging carbonic acid, for bicarbonate of lime. And lastly, this its burden is either deposited as stalactite, and stalagmite, if a free current of air be present, or is conveyed out into the open air partly to be precipitated in the form of tufa on the vegetables in the water, or to be absorbed into their living tissues, partly to be carried seawards to supply the respective wants of the inhabitants of the sea. Thus admirably in the harmony of nature are the extinct organisms made subservient to the good of those now existing, and the coral, the encrinure, and the spirifer, disinterred from their tombs, live over again in the green grass of our fields and in the familiar forms of the organisms of our sea coasts. Owing to this beautiful circulation of matter, reducible to a chemical law, are our ravines, or unroofed caverns formed, and our caves enlarged, or, on the free access of air, covered with drapery as of

alabaster. To this cause, apparently so insignificant, and operating so slowly that its results of the present day cannot be noted, to the action of the infinitesimal atom of carbonic acid in each rain-drop upon the rock with which it came in contact during enormous periods, are owing those grand unroofed caverns, Cheddar Pass, Burrington Combe and others, among which Wookey Hole Ravine by no means takes the lowest rank. It is but the unroofed and ruined portico of the main cavern now at its head, which, in its very name of Wookey Hole Cavern, carries the proof that it was familiar to the Celts. On the south side of the ravine, and at a distance of about 200 yards from the main cave is the Hyena-den, one of several dry caves ranged round the ravine like branches round the trunk of a tree. All doubtless were feeders to the river Axe, which, disappearing at Priddy down a swallow hole, after a subterranean course of at least three miles, passes out of the main cave at Wookey Hole greatly increased in volume, and flows along the bottom of the ravine.

III.—In cutting a channel in the rock to convey the water from this cave to the paper-mills hard by, the mouth of the Hyena-den was intersected some ten years ago, and from that time up to December, 1859, it was undisturbed save by rabbits and badgers. At its discovery it was completely filled with red earth, stones, and organic remains, and presented no external feature to indicate its presence with the exception of a few rabbit and badger holes. The workmen state that as they were quarrying the Dolomitic conglomerate in place of rock they came suddenly upon red earth and stones, and, on the floor of the cave, a layer of bones and teeth about twelve inches in thickness, of which they took no particular notice. One of them, however, wiser than his fellows, sold two cwt. of

upper molars of *Rhinoceros tichorhinus* (as I made out by his description) to a dealer in old bones at Wells. Some also of his comrades preserved a few of the teeth, which have been scattered among private collections or are to be found in the British Museum and that of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society at Taunton. A pot of Romano-British money was also found near the cave, which, being of about the same workmanship, form, and size as a large common flower pot, was broken, as is usually the case, and the silver coins of Allectus and Commodus were divided among the workmen. Some skeletons found at the same time were passed by as unworthy of notice. In the course of this excavation about twelve feet of the original mouth of the cave have been cut away.

IV.—When we began our exploration so completely was the cave filled with débris up to the very roof, that we were compelled to cut our way into it. Of the stones scattered irregularly through the matrix of red earth some were angular, others water-worn; all are derived from the decomposition of the Dolomitic conglomerate in which the cave is hollowed. Near the entrance, and at a depth of five feet from the roof, were three layers of peroxide of manganese, full of bony splinters. Passing obliquely up towards the southern side of the cave, and over a ledge of rock that rises abruptly from the floor, further inwards they became interblended one with another, and at a distance of fifteen feet from the entrance were barely visible. In and between these the animal remains were found in the greatest abundance.

While driving this adit we found an angular piece of flint which had evidently been chipped by human agency, and

a water-worn fragment of a belemnite, which probably had been derived from the neighbouring marlstone series; bones and teeth of *Rhinoceros tichorhinus*, *Cervus Bucklandi*, of other species of deer, of Irish elk, mammoth, hyena, *Ursus spelæus*, wolf, fox and horse rewarded our labours; and at the mouth of the cave, and cemented together by stalagmite, were frogs' remains.

V.—In 1860 we recommenced work and, in addition to the above remains, found satisfactory evidence of the former presence of man in the cave. One white flint spear-head, of rude workmanship; one chert arrow-head; a roughly chipped piece of chert; a round, flattened piece of chert; together with various splinters of flint, which had apparently been knocked off in the manufacture of some implement, rewarded our search. Two rudely fashioned bone arrow-heads were also found which, unfortunately, have since been lost; they resembled in shape an equilateral triangle with the angles at the base bevelled off. All were found in and around the same spot, between the dark bands of manganese in contact with teeth of hyena, at a depth of four feet from the roof and at a distance of twelve feet from the present entrance. That there might be no mistake about the accuracy of the observations I examined every shovelful of débris as it was thrown out by the workmen, while the exact spot where they were excavating was watched by the Rev. Mr. Williamson. The white flint spear-head was picked out by him of the undisturbed matrix; the remainder of the implements were found by me in the earth thrown out from the same place. Thus there can be no doubt as to their exact position and error of observation is rendered very improbable.

VI.—On resuming our excavations in April, 1861, we

found that the cave began to narrow, and ultimately to bifurcate, one branch extending vertically upwards while the other, still undisturbed, appeared to extend almost horizontally to the right hand. As we reached the middle constricted passage the teeth became fewer, while the stones were of larger size than any that we had hitherto discovered. The great majority of the gnawed antlers of deer were found at this part, also the posterior half of the skull of a reindeer, the right maxilla of *canis lupus*, and what is more remarkable, a stone with one of its surfaces coated with a deposit, apparently of stalagmite; this, however, was much lighter than stalagmite, and not so good a conductor of heat, and, on analysis, I found that it consisted of phosphate of lime with a little carbonate and a very small portion of peroxide of manganese. Doubtless the surface of the stone, covered with phosphate of lime, formed part of the ancient floor of the cave and hence was coated with excrement, while the lower part, being embedded in the earth on the floor, was not so coated. The stone also itself exhibits tooth-marks, and probably was gnawed by the hyenas, like the necrosed antlers, for amusement: dogs are very fond of exercising their teeth in this way. This discovery proves that violent watery action had but small share, if any, in filling the cave, for in that case the soft album græcum would have been removed from the stone.

The section made in cutting this passage presented irregular layers of peroxide of manganese, full of bony splinters, and, in general, covered with a layer of bones in various stages of decay. These disappeared in the upper portion of the passage. There were masses of prismatic stalactites scattered confusedly through the

matrix. After excavating the vertical branch as far as we dared (for the large stones in it made the task dangerous) we were compelled to leave off, having penetrated altogether only 34 feet from the cave's mouth. In this vertical branch the bones, stones and red earth are cemented together by carbonate of lime, a circumstance which added materially to the difficulty of excavation.

VII.—Encouraged by the results of these our imperfect explorations I, together with Mr. Henry Catt and Mr. James Parker, resolved to empty the cave of its contents. And this we were able to carry out through the courtesy of its owner, Mr. Hodgkinson.

We commenced by clearing out the earth, stones, and organic remains from the large antrum or entrance chamber of the cave, in doing which numerous flint and chert implements were found in two groups, the larger occupying the extreme left of the cave close to the entrance, and extending inwards,—the smaller situated about eight feet from the right hand side of the cave, and about eighteen feet from the present entrance. When we had penetrated as far as the vertical fissure immediately opposite the entrance, being stopped by a vertical wall of rock, we turned to the left, and dug our way into a small horizontal passage, with an average height of four feet, and a width of eight feet which branched off almost at right angles to the large chamber. On penetrating into this from six to eight feet, we came suddenly upon a layer of compacted teeth, and bones of various animals, and of coprolites of hyena irregularly jumbled together, hyena with rhinoceros, and both with Irish elk, wolf, etc. About four inches in thickness, it had an average width of seven, and an extent inwards of fourteen feet, affording, therefore, a square area

of ninety eight feet of organic remains. Its relation to the other members of the same section is as follows:—on the honey-combed and acid-worn conglomerate floor a layer of red earth rested, two feet in thickness and containing few organic remains, but large quantities of stones. Above this came the bone-bed, from three to four inches in thickness with a few stones in its lower part ; next a layer of loose dark red earth with, also, a few stones in its lower part which had fallen from the roof, from three to four inches thick, while above this, at an interval of from three to four inches was the roof of the cave. Sixty four jaws and two hundred and forty teeth, exclusive of the numbers that crumbled to pieces at the touch, and of the bones, have been preserved and catalogued from this bone-layer.

On still continuing to advance inwards we found that the passage turned at right angles to the south and at the same time threw a small branch upwards and eastwards. Both contained bone-beds, similar in character to the one above described and presenting the same section, except that in some places the dark red earth was absent and the bones touched the roof. That in the latter, extending from one side of the passage to the other, was perfectly horizontal and gradually thinned out at its upper end owing to the inclination of the passage, until, at a distance of five feet from the bifurcation, it rested on the floor. Fifteen feet in square area it yielded eight jaws and forty six teeth besides a large quantity of bones. The layer of dark earth also thinned out until it rested on the floor, and the empty passage beyond it gradually contracting, at a distance of ten feet from the bifurcation was but little larger than a rabbit hole (nine by nine inches). At this point a stalactite descending formed a vertical

bar right across from floor to roof, as if to forbid further ingress.

That in the former passage which had a gentle dip to the south of 6° , extending from side to side, averaged six feet in width and fourteen in length and therefore afforded a square area of eighty four feet. Besides an enormous quantity of bones, forty seven jaws and one hundred and twenty teeth, it yielded the only rolled flint found in the cave which exhibited no traces of man's handiwork. As we approached the further end of the bone-layer indications of a fine sand began to appear on the floor, and the red earth became of a paler hue and more and more clayey. These changes became more and more marked, until, at the very edge of the bone-bed, a section showed about one foot six inches of pale grey clay, reaching up to the roof, containing a few large bones and many large stones, both angular and water-worn, based upon four inches of fine sand mixed with pieces of mountain limestone chert, and a quantity of peroxide of manganese. This rested upon the water-worn and acid-worn floor. In the grey clay a beautifully polished piece of chert was found which appears to owe its polish to friction upon some soft substance. Dr. Buckland would ascribe it to the friction of hyenas' feet or skin and term it a rubbing-stone.

On penetrating a few feet further we found that the passage suddenly became vertical and was completely filled with grey clay and large stones, without any trace of organic remains. At the point where we ceased it took the form of a vault, six feet high and four feet wide with a small opening about one foot square in its top, which doubtless communicates with the surface above.

VIII.—The floor of the cave, in the main horizontal or but slightly inclined, exhibited traces of a twofold action. The pebbles of the conglomerate in which it is hollowed exhibit striæ or grooves with the same general course as the passages, and clearly pointing back to a time when a current of water sufficiently strong to move large stones in its course flowed through the cave, when it was the channel of a feeder to the river Axe. They are, moreover, nearly worn down to the level of the much softer calcareo-magnesian cement in which they are embedded. They are also in some cases acid-worn, and show a delicate fretwork of calc spar on their worn surfaces, similar to that on the stones composing the débris of “subaerial” denudation on the summit of Mendip. Of the four upper tending passages, two which slant obliquely upwards contain both stalactites and stalagmites and have their upper parts empty, two which are vertical are totally devoid of stalactites and stalagmites and of organic remains, and agree in the large size of the stones and the pale grey colour of the clay with which every cranny of them is filled. The two latter were doubtless at some former period swallow holes and were in immediate connection with the surface of the ground above.

The roof of the cave conforms roughly to the dip of the strata, as also does the floor, but not to so great an extent.

IX.—Let us now pass on to consider the method by which the various contents of the cave were introduced.

The red earth, the matrix in which the organic remains and stones were embedded, highly calcareous and containing magnesia and peroxide of iron, is identical with the cement which binds together the pebbles of limestone

in the dolomitic conglomerate, and doubtless was derived from its decay. And as this proceeded the pebbles, either angular or water-worn, as the case may be, dropped out. But while the stones in all probability were thus derived from the roof and walls of the cave, and in part also the red earth, as in all the caves of Mendip, the identity of the latter and the grey clays, and the fine sand of the cave with the deposits of a stream flowing through the Wookey Hole Cavern, shows most decidedly that a considerable portion of it was introduced by water. The layers of peroxide of manganese also point to the same cause.

X.—The organic remains found, as we have already seen, in the greatest abundance in the three bone-layers, were in all stages of decay, those which were longest uncovered by the red earth being the most decayed, and those of the most compact nature, such as the metacarpals and metatarsals of the herbivores being the best preserved. Some have lost but little of their gelatine. All those that were perfect were solid bones, or with but a small and insignificant medullary cavity, while all the hollow bones that contained marrow were more or less broken ; the majority were reduced to splinters, others had lost but one of their extremities. The majority belonged to the rhinoceros, and out of the five hundred I have catalogued two hundred and thirty eight belong to that animal. The coprolites of *Hyæna spelæa* were very abundant.

XI.—The sum total of one thousand and sixteen teeth and one hundred and fifty five fragmentary jaws, of which I will now speak, passing over a detailed account of the bones, were pretty evenly distributed in the cave as the subjoined table shows.

	Antrum		Passage from Antrum to Bifurcation		Smaller branch to the east		Branch at right angles to south		Total	
	Jaws	Teeth	Jaws	Teeth	Jaws	Teeth	Jaws	Teeth	Jaws	Teeth
CARNIVORA.										
<i>Hyena spelæa</i>	26	229	46	67	8	7	41	39	131	342
<i>Felis spelæa</i>		5		2				2		9
<i>Felis</i>								1		1
<i>Ursus spelæus</i>	1	13				3		8	1	26
<i>Ursus</i>	1								1	2
<i>Ursus arctos</i>		1								1
<i>Lupus</i>	1	3	3						4	3
<i>Vulpes</i>	3	2							3	2
PROBOSCIDA.										
<i>Elephas primigenius</i> ..		13		4				13		30
PERISSODACTYLA.										
<i>Rhinoceros tichorhinus</i>	3	88	4	63		10		29	7	190
<i>R. hemiteæchus (Falc.)</i>		1								1
<i>Equus</i>		215	4	95		24		28	4	362
ARTIODACTYLA.										
<i>Bos primigenius</i>		14		1		1				16
<i>Bos</i>		1								1
<i>Megaceros Hibernicus</i>	2	18	7	4		1	3		12	23
<i>Cervus</i>		7								7
* <i>C. tarandus</i>	2								2	
† <i>C. elaphus</i>										
<i>Strongylo ceros spelæus</i> }										
Total	39	610	64	240	8	46	44	120	155	1016

* Under the head of *Cervus tarandus* (the reindeer) I have classed the species, termed by Professor Owen (Brit. Foss. Mam., pp. 485, 486) *Cervus Bucklandi* and *C. Guettardi*. He bases the species upon the position of the brow antler and the size of the beam, both of which vary according to the age of the animal. A skull of reindeer in the Taunton Museum bearing an antler of *C. Guettardi*, shows the futility of basing species upon such shallow foundations. And in the recent reindeer there is no part more variable than the brow antler; sometimes it is altogether absent, at others is connate with a second, and, as far as I have examined, is never symmetrical, even in the same individual. *C. Guettardi* is a young, *C. Bucklandi* an old reindeer.

† *Strongylo ceros spelæus*, Owen (Tom. cit. p. 472), is likewise a species founded upon size of antlers, and size alone, and until there is more evidence of the difference between it and *C. elaphus* there are no data for assuming that it is not an old variety of the latter existing and well-known species.

The preponderance of remains from the antrum is owing to its being so much larger than the passages in dimensions, coupled with the fact that a few remains picked up out of the earth obtained from the passages are reckoned among those from the former. The horse, rhinoceros and hyena are the three which far exceed the rest in number, and out of one hundred and fifty six jaws one hundred and thirty one belong to the latter animal. Its jaws show the dentition in every stage, from the youngest to the oldest, with bone-crushers worn or broken away. In the latter the alveolar edge of the jaw shows traces of inflammation, caused by the laceration of the gum by splinters of bone while the animal was feeding.

Two jaws of the Irish elk exhibit great peculiarities. In one, the first premolar (P.m. 2) has come up the wrong side foremost and with the outer side innermost, which is an anomaly I have never before met with nor heard of. The outer side of the second exhibits traces of inflammation of the periosteum and consequent abnormal increase of thickness of the outer wall of jaw, owing, possibly, to a blow received in the rutting season. Space will not permit me to quote any other of the numerous instances of morbid anatomy from the cave.

The prevalence of horse teeth and the scarcity of those of *Bos primigenius*, compared with the scarcity of the former and the abundance of the latter in the Kirkdale cave, shows that at the time that great herds of oxen roamed over Yorkshire the plains of Somerset supported equally great numbers of horses.

The small milk molar of *R. hemitæchus* is remarkable as proving the contemporaneity of that species with *R. tichorhinus* and *E. primigenius* and is the second instance yet met with in England of its being associated with the traces

of man. It may, perhaps, refer the date of the cave back to the earlier division of the newer Pliocene.

XII.—To one of the most difficult questions of the day — “How were the remains introduced?” one of three answers must be made. First, that at some remote period, when the drainage of the district was far different to what it is now, a current of water was the introducing agent, as it undoubtedly was in the Liége caverns.* That the remains happening to be near a swallow hole became engulfed, and finally rested in these positions in which they were discovered. Secondly, that the remains are those of creatures which fell through swallow holes, as in the case of the Wirksworth† cave, and in the same manner as sheep frequently fall into open crevices in the Mendips at the present day. Thirdly, that the cave was for some period the abode of some beast of prey, such as the fox, wolf, bear or hyena.

As the absence of traces of watery action upon the organic remains themselves, and of its sorting action in their arrangement, coupled with the fact that in some instances the most minute points and processes are perfectly preserved, which would undoubtedly have been ground to powder had a current once set the stones in the cave in motion, invalidates the first; so does the presence of large quantities of remains of the carnivores, the absence of perfect bones of the herbivores, and the com-

* Vid. “Recherches sur les Ossements Fossiles decouvertes dans les Caverns de la Province de Liege.” 1833. All the caves described by Dr. Schmerling in the above admirable work belong to that class which owes its contents to the passage of water from a higher to a lower level, and which consists of a vault or a chain of vaults, of which the furthest from the entrance is the lowest. Dr. Buckland also (*Reliquiæ Diluvianæ*, p. 57, and p. 69) affords us examples of this class at Hutton and in the Plymouth caves.

† Buckland *Rel. Diluv.* p. 61, pl. 20.

paratively equal distribution of the remains in the passages and in the large antrum render the second altogether untenable. On the other hand, the large percentage of teeth, jaws and coprolites of the hyena, the fragmentary condition of all the remains, the enormous number of splinters of bone, and the teeth marks upon them all point to the third and last hypothesis as that only which satisfies the requirements of the case, while they are totally at variance with the two former. They show, indeed, that the hyenas were the occupiers of the cave and dragged in the remains of the other creatures for food, as at Kirkdale.*

XIII.—It is clear, however, that the organic remains now are not in the exact position in which the hyenas left them. Some of them touched the roof, and the maximum distance of the bone-layers from it was not more than eight inches, a space manifestly too small for a hyena one-third larger than the existing one (*H. crocuta*) to devour the head of a rhinoceros or elephant. We must, therefore, ascribe their position and their re-arrangement to the only adequate cause, to water. But the presence of the three bone-layers in the narrow passages instead of in the large open antrum proves that while they have been in the cave no current has passed through the passages in which they lie, for in that case they would have been swept out into the antrum on the diffusion of the current over the wider area, and they would not have been found in places where it exerted its greatest force. Were the outlet of

* Tom. cit. pp. 1-19. In Macmillan's Mag., No. 35 (Sept. 1862), is a very extraordinary paper "On the Hand of Man in the Kirkdale Cave," by John Taylor, Esq. He argues that Druids and not hyenas conveyed the organic remains into it, and, having assumed that there was a brisk foreign trade in those days, concludes that the cave is but the storehouse of a vast quantity of imported physic. The plans and sections drawn to scale are, nevertheless, well worthy of examination.

the ravine through which the Axe now flows blocked up or insufficient for the drainage during an unusually wet season, all these otherwise conflicting phenomena are satisfactorily explained. The water, being pounded back, would gradually rise until it reached and flowed into the mouth of the cave, and there meeting with the remains, which are lighter than the sediment and the stones, it may have elevated them, and permanently, on account of the red earthy sediment, which is always present in the freshets of Mendip. And this process, often repeated at various intervals, may have elevated some of the remains, on the surface at the time, even up to the roof. The presence of the lower jaws of the same hyena in one layer of matted bones, teeth and coprolites, and of teeth of the same elephant, belonging respectively to the right and left sides of the lower jaw, and other examples of the same kind in a second, may, perhaps, indicate that the bone-layers were elevated *en masse*. In fine, as it is certain that hyenas introduced the remains, so will no other hypothesis satisfy the phenomena than that the water which every winter elevates the peat of the neighbouring moor above its summer level raised the organic remains to the position in which we found them, and permanently, on account of the sediment which it contained.

XIV.—As we have now accounted for the presence of the organic remains, the stones, and the red earth, let us pass on to consider the traces of man found in the cave. All the implements were found in the antrum, and were lying in three groups, of which the larger one occupies the extreme left of the cave. In this fragments of calcined bones were found, among which one, from its coarse texture and its thickness, strongly resembles the numerous fragments of rhinoceros bone, and, at all events,

belongs either to that animal or the elephant. The exact locality of one bone ash, imbedded in the earthy matrix, between the lower canine and the coprolite of a hyena, and all three cemented to a mass of Dolomitic conglomerate, is uncertain; it came, however, from one of the passages. In one group, situated about the middle of the antrum, two bone arrow-heads were found, in shape equilaterally triangular with the angles of the base bevelled off. These have, unfortunately, been lost, together with a chert arrow-head from the same spot. Layers of peroxide of manganese passed over two out of the three groups of implements. The flint implements have been more or less decomposed and have altogether lost their conchoidal fracture, while those of chert are unaltered. All the spear-heads were of flint, all the sling-stones of chert from the greensand; for flakes and other sharp-edged implements both materials were used indifferently. The three types most abundant were the sling-stone, flake, and spear-head, and a fourth, which, I think, has not yet been recognised, in form is roughly pyramidal, with a smooth, flat base with a cutting edge all round. Of these we found but two examples, both consisting of chert. They are similar in form to some hundreds of flint which were found in a so-called "British village" at Stanlake, near Oxford, and to others I discovered in an ancient burial ground at Yarnton.* The rest of the splinters are irregular in form and some possibly are chips made in the manufacture of implements. On comparing them with those of Amiens and Abbeville I find that, though the typical forms are preserved, the workmanship is much inferior. This, possibly, may

* My friend Mr. Christy, since this was written has given me a cast of a new type of implement found by M. Lartet in the cave of Aurignac, which is similar in form to the Wookey Hole specimens.

indicate a higher antiquity, and certainly shows that the savages of Wookey Hole were of a lower order than those of the valley of the Somme.

XV.—But what date can we assign to these traces of man? Are they of the same date as the remains of creatures which have been extinct long before the dawn of history? Or have they been introduced at a period subsequent to that of the filling up of the cave? To these questions, indeed, but one answer can be given. The absence of traces of disturbance posterior to the filling up of the cave, coupled with the presence of layers of peroxide of manganese, indicative of old floors over two out of the three groups of implements, proves that they were not introduced posterior to the filling up of the cave, while the very fact that they are grouped together renders the hypothesis of their having been introduced or disturbed by water, which disturbed and elevated the three bone-layers and the remains, at the surface at the time, altogether untenable; and we are driven to the conclusion that man was a contemporary with the extinct fauna of Somerset—with the elephants (*E. primigenius*), the two species of rhinoceros (*R. tichorhinus* and *hemitechus*) and their congeners. But the presence of the remains of hyena underneath one group of implements, and of calcined bone, either of rhinoceros or elephant, tends to show that the cave was a hyena-den before the implements composing that group were placed there, while the layers of peroxide of manganese, mixed with comminuted bone, above two of the groups, and a large quantity of organic remains found at a higher level shows that the hyenas returned again to their old haunt, from whence they had been driven. Thus there are three distinct periods of occupation. First, that of the hyenas, who dragged in and devoured their prey in

the cave. Secondly, that of the savages who kindled the fires which calcined some of the bone lying on the surface at the time, and who left behind them both implements and the splinters knocked off in their manufacture. Thirdly, the re-occupation of the cave by the hyenas. The time when the last contents were introduced is altogether unknown, but the absence of bones of rabbit, hare, birds and bats, abundant in all caves still open in the neighbourhood, may, perhaps, show that the cave was closed before the fauna of the period had yielded to that now holding the same district.

XVI.—Let us now attempt to realise the strange inhabitants of our county during the later Pliocene bone-cave period. The relations between land and water are changed—a level plain extends westward into the Bristol Channel, and, possibly, far away into the Atlantic. Forests* of beech, and yew, and thickets of hazel occupy the drier ground; the willow, the fir tree, and the alder fringe the swamps; here and there upon the mountain patches of greensward peep from among the trees, while bare grey masses of limestone on the mountain side are brought out into strong relief by the surrounding woods. Some of the lowlands, also, are treeless, and form prairies, miniatures of those of North America. Thus far we are, to a certain degree, at home, the trees and even the mosses, and, probably, also, the wild flowers are the same; even the main features of the landscape are identical. The Quantocks, and the Mendips, and the Blackdowns are still overlooking the

* The oak had not as yet supplanted the beech in the north of Europe. Its first appearance is in the peat bogs of Denmark, associated with *bronze* implements. Professor Max Müller has shown the bearing of language upon this question in his late series of lectures at the Royal Institution.

level plain at their feet. Thus far, but no farther. In the forests lurk the lion and the bear, ready to spring on the rhinoceros, and the deer, and the gigantic ox as they pass to their watering-places, wolves hunt down the reindeer, the hyenas, issuing at the approach of night from their dens, drag back again mammoth or rhinoceros from the woodlands, or red deer, Irish elk and reindeer, but more frequently horses, from the plain, and hesitate not to attack lion or bear, even in their prime. In the woodlands the mammoth, shielded by a woolly covering from the inclemency of this northern climate, browses off the young shoots of our present trees, horses wander over the open plain. In the foreground stands man, fire-using, and acquainted with the use of the bow, but far worse armed with his puny weapons of flint, and chert, and bone, than his contemporaries with their sharp claws and strong teeth. And the very fact that he held his ground against them shows that cunning and craft more than compensated for the deficiency of his armament. He was, indeed, in a worse situation than the bushmen of Port Natal, for they have to contend against less formidable wild beasts. Yet even here we find that the relation between herbivore and carnivore remains constant, though the terms vary. As the deer and mammoth were larger than in existing nature so was the destructive capacity and the size of those animals which preyed upon them—the lion, wolf, bear, and hyæna—proportionably increased.

XVII.—Next comes a blank, a period about the duration of which no estimate can be formed, but that it was enormous there can be little doubt, for in it the cave lion, bear, and hyæna, the rhinoceros, and the elephant became extinct. That it was a period of submergence is shown by the submarine forest overlying the *Elephas primigenius*

clay on the north coast off St. Audries. Next came an upheaval (which I believe to be going on now) during which the shingle and the sand, containing recent marine shells, in places far inland, as, for example, at Westonzoyland, Middlezoy, and Burtle, were first formed, and afterwards the alternation of fine alluvial clay and peat, in the latter of which canoes, celts, and other traces of man are found. The pottery and human teeth found by Dr. Buckland in the great cave unassociated with the remains of animals in all probability is of the same date. And lastly, the discovery of the coins of Allectus "*Comes Littoris Saxonici*" along with the skeletons near the hyena-den brings us down to the fourth or fifth century.

XVIII.—In this brief survey we are in the position of one who from a mountain-top looks down upon a mist-covered landscape below and sees peak after peak insulated in the great sea of mist. But yet he knows that they are parts of one and the same tract hidden from his view and waits until the sun roll away the covering and disclose the unity of the landscape. We must wait patiently, attributing those sharp boundary lines between the extinction of one set of animals and the appearance of another, the apparent isolation of the earliest of our race, and even the great chasms between classes and genera to our imperfect knowledge, in the full belief that the mists now concealing the history of the past will be dissipated and the exquisite unity and harmony of nature be shadowed forth to us by strict and laborious scientific enquiry. We must fully realize the fact that, at the present time, we know as little of our earliest ancestors as of the first trilobite, and that our only means of fixing their place in the geological series are those which are applied to all extinct forms—an appeal, first to the associated forms,

and, secondly, to the succeeding ones. The concurrent testimony of both these—that a race of men co-existed with animals extinct for ages in Europe, and whose representatives are now found only in tropical Asia and Africa; that it was succeeded by other races of a higher grade and possessed of better tools—by the folk of the stone, bronze, and iron ages—points back to an antiquity so great that it is idle to speculate upon the number of years necessary to fill up the chasm which separates the flint-folk from ourselves.



1861-2.

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R u l e s .

THIS Society shall be denominated "THE SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY;" and its object shall be the cultivation of, and collecting information on, Archæology and Natural History in their various branches, but more particularly in connection with the County of Somerset.

II.—The Society shall consist of a Patron, elected for life; a President; Vice-Presidents; General, and District or Local Secretaries; and a Treasurer, elected at each Anniversary Meeting; with a Committee of twelve, six of whom shall go out annually by rotation but may be re-elected. No person shall be elected on the Committee until he shall have been six months a Member of the Society.

III.—Anniversary General Meetings shall be held for the purpose of electing the Officers, of receiving the Report of the Committee for the past year, and of transacting all other necessary business, at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint, of which Meetings three weeks' notice shall be given to the Members.

IV.—There shall also be a General Meeting, fixed by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving Reports, reading Papers, and transacting business. All Members shall have the privilege of introducing one friend to the Anniversary and General Meetings.

V.—The Committee is empowered to call Special Meetings of the Society upon receiving a requisition signed by ten Members. Three weeks' notice of such Special Meeting and its object shall be given to each Member.

VI.—The affairs of the Society shall be directed by the Committee (of which the Officers of the Society shall be *ex-officio* members) which shall hold Monthly Meetings for receiving Reports from the Secretaries and sub-Committees, and for transacting other necessary business; five of the Committee shall be a quorum. Members may attend the Monthly Committee Meetings after the official business has been transacted.

VII.—The Chairman, at Meetings of the Society, shall have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a member.

VIII.—One (at least) of the Secretaries shall attend each Meeting, and shall keep a record of its proceedings. All Manuscripts and Communications and the other property of the Society shall be under the charge of the Secretaries.

IX.—Candidates for admission as Members shall be proposed by two Members at any of the General or Committee Meetings, and the election shall be determined by ballot at the next Committee or General Meeting; three-fourths of the Members present balloting shall elect. The rules of the Society shall be subscribed by every person becoming a Member.

X.—Ladies shall be eligible as Members of the Society without ballot, being proposed by two Members and approved by the majority of the Meeting.

XI.—Each Member shall pay Ten Shillings on admission to

the Society and Ten Shillings as an annual subscription, which shall become due on the 1st of January in each year and shall be paid in advance.

XII.—Donors of Ten Guineas or upwards shall be Members for life.

XIII.—At General Meetings of the Society the Committee may recommend persons to be balloted for as Honorary or Corresponding Members.

XIV.—When any office shall become vacant or any new appointment shall be requisite the Committee shall have power to fill up the same; such appointments shall remain in force only till the next General Meeting, when they shall be either confirmed or annulled.

XV.—The Treasurer shall receive all Subscriptions and Donations made to the Society, and shall pay all accounts passed by the Committee; he shall keep a book of receipts and payments, which he shall produce whenever the Committee shall require it; the accounts shall be audited previously to the Anniversary meeting by two Members of the Committee chosen for that purpose, and an abstract of them shall be read at the Meeting.

XVI.—No change shall be made in the Laws of the Society except at a General or Special Meeting at which twelve Members at least shall be present. Of the proposed change a month's notice shall be given to the Secretaries who shall communicate the same to each Member three weeks before the Meeting.

XVII.—Papers read at Meetings of the Society and considered by the Committee of sufficient interest for publication shall be forwarded (with the author's consent) to such periodical as shall be determined by the Committee to be the best for the purpose, with a request that a number of such papers may be printed separately for distribution to the Members of the Society, either gratuitously or for such payment as may be agreed on.

XVIII.—No religious or political discussions shall be permitted at Meetings of the Society.

XIX.—That any person contributing Books or Specimens to the Museum shall be at liberty to resume possession of them in

the event of the property of the Society ever being sold or transferred to any other county. Also, persons shall have liberty to deposit Books or Specimens for a specific time only.

N.B.—One of the objects of the Society shall be to collect, by donation or purchase, a Library and Museum, more particularly illustrating the History (Natural, Civil, and Ecclesiastical) of the County of Somerset.

. *It is requested that Contributions to the Museum or Library be sent to the Curator, at the Society's Rooms, Taunton.*

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 Hoyte, John Rocke, *Glastonbury*.
 Rocke, J. J., "
 285 Rodbard, John, *Aldwick Court*.
 Rogers, G., *Bishop's Hull*.
 Rowcliffe, Charles, *Milverton*.
 Ruegg, Lewis H., *Sherborne, Dorset*.

 Sanford, E. A., *Nynehead Court*.
 290 Sanford, W. A., "
 Sowdon, Rev. Fredk., *Dunkerton*.
 Searth, Rev. H. M., *Bathwick, Bath*.

- Scott, Rev. J. P., *Staplegrove*.
Sealy, John, *Bridgwater*.
295 Sealy, H. N., *Nether Stowey*.
Serel, Thomas, *Wells*.
* Seymour, H. D., M.P., *Knowle, Wilts*.
Sheppard, A. B., *Torquay*.
Sheppard, J., *Frome*.
300 Sheppard, W. B., *Keyford House, Frome*.
Sheppard, T. B., *Selwood Cottage, Frome*.
Sheppard, Rev. H. F.
Shipton, Rev. J. N., D.D., *Othery*.
Shore, J., *Whatley, near Frome*.
305 Shout, R. H., *Yeovil, and 1, Duchess-street, Portland-*
place, London, W.
Shulldham, Miss E., *Norton Fitzwarren*.
Shute, H., *Cary Fitzpaine*.
Skinner, George, *Belmont, Bath*.
Slade, Wyndham, *Muntz's Court, Taunton*.
310 Smith, Basset, 38, *Bennet-hill, Birmingham*.
Smith, Mrs., *Bishop's Lydeard*.
Smith, Richard, *Bridgwater*.
Smith, Miss E. H., 30, *Royal Crescent, Bath*.
Solly, Miss L., *Bath*.
315 Sotheby, Rev. T. H., *Milverton*.
Sparks, W., *Crewkerne*.
Speke, W., *Jordans, near Ilminster*.
Sperrin, J., *Weston-super-Mare*.
Spicer, R. W., *Chard*.
320 Squire, F., *Pall Mall, London, S.W.*
Stansell, Alfred, *Taunton*.
Stephenson, Rev. J., *Lympsham*.
Stuart, Rev. T. B., *Wookey*.
Stone, W. H., *Budleigh Salterton*.
325 Stradling, W. J. L., *Chilton-super-Polden*.
Stradling, Miss, "
Stuckey, V., *Langport*.
Surtees, W. Edward, *Tainfield*.
Sweet, Rev. C., *Sampford Arundel*.
330 Symes, Rev. R., *Cleeve, Bristol*.
Symons, William, *Dunster*.

Talbot de Malahide, Lord, *Everereech, Shepton Mallet.*

- * Taunton, Lord, *Stoke Park, Slough, Bucks.*
 Thomas, C. J., *Durdham Park, Bristol.*
- 335 Todd, Lt.-Col., *Keynston, Blandford.*
 Tomkins, C., M.D., *Weston-super-Mare.*
 Tomkins, Rev. H. G., *West Coker, Yeovil.*
 Tompkins, George, *Wells.*
 Trenchard, H. C., *Taunton.*
- 340 Trevelyan, Sir W. C., Bart., *Nettlecombe Court, and
 Wallington, Northumberland.*
 Trevelyan, Lady " "
 Trevelyan, Sir C. E.
 Trevelyan, Rev. E. O., *Stogumber.*
 Trevelyan, Arthur, *Tyneholm, Tranent, N.B.*
- 345 Trevelyan, Miss, *Nettlecombe Court.*
 Trew, Richard, *Axbridge.*
 Trudell, James, *Taunton (deceased).*
 Tucker, Rev. H. T., *Leigh Court.*
 Turle, H., *Taunton.*
- 350 Turner, A., *Staplegrove (deceased).*
 Turner, C. J., "
 Tunstall, James, M.D., 35, *Brock-street, Bath.*
- Uttermare, T. B., *Langport.*
- Vibart, James, *Chilliswood.*
- 355 Voules, Rev. T. A., *Ash Hill, near Ilminster.*
- Walker, L., 12, *Bryanstone Square, London.*
 Walter, W., *Oldbury Lodge.*
 Walter, R., *Stoke-sub-Hamdon.*
 Walters, G., *Frome.*
- 360 Ward, Rev. J. W., *Ruishton.*
 Warre, Rev. F., *Bishop's Lydeard.*
 Warre, Miss, "
 Warre, H., *Bindon, Wellington.*
 Warren, J. F. H., *Langport.*
- 365 Warren, Rev. J., *Bawdrip.*
 Webber, Rev. E. A., *Runnington.*
 Welch, C., *Minehead.*
 Welman, C. N., *Norton Manor.*
 Welsh, W. I., *Wells.*
- 370 Weston, Plowden C. J., *South Carolina, U.S.*

- White, C., *Beech Cottage, Wellington Road, Bromley-by-Bow, London.*
 White, F., *Wellington.*
 White, F. G., *Taunton.*
 White, Rev. James, *Bruton.*
 375 White, Rev. F. W., *Mere Vicarage, Glastonbury.*
 Whitmash, E., *Taunton.*
 Wickham, Rev. G. H. D., *Horsington Rectory, Wincanton.*
 Winter, Charles, *Bishop's Lydeard.*
 Winwood, Rev. H. H., 4, *Cavendish Crescent, Bath.*
 380 Woodforde, F. H., M.D., *Fairwater, Taunton.*
 Woodforde, G. A., *Castle Carey.*
 Woodland, J., *Bridgwater.*
 Wrangham, Digby G., *The Rocks, Bath.*
 Yatman, Rev. J. A., *Winscombe, Sidcot.*
 385 Young, J., *Elm Cottage, Taunton (deceased).*
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New Members, 1862-3.

- Burridge, Wm., *Wellington.*
 Cogan, Henry, *Langport.*
 Dawkins, W. Boyd, *Jesus College, Oxford.*
 Fox, Geo. Smith, *Wellington.*
 390 George, Rev. Philip Edward, *Combe Hay, near Bath.*
 Green, Rev. J. R., *The Parsonage, King's Square, Goswell Road, London.*
 Henderson, Robert, *Bell House, Trull.*
 Hooker, R. H., *Sea Cliff Cottage, near Dartmouth.*
 Marwood, John Barry, 13, *Ashton Terrace, Coronation Road, Bristol.*
 395 Perrin, Rev. Geo., *Wellington.*
 Philpott, Rev. R. S., *Chewton Mendip.*
 Reynolds, Wm., *Wellington.*
 Salmon, Rev. E. A., *Martock.*

